

# Chapter 3

## Japan's Foreign Policy to Promote National and Global Interests

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## Section 1

# Efforts for Peace and Stability of Japan and the International Community

## 1 National Security Initiatives

### (1) “Proactive Contribution to Peace” Based on the Principle of International Cooperation

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming more testing and uncertain at a remarkably faster speed. Changes in the balance of power in the international arena are accelerating and becoming more complex, and uncertainty over the existing order is increasing. Against such a backdrop, prominently emerging are inter-state competitions, in which states seek to shape global and regional order to their advantage as well as to increase their influence. What is more, in the international community, there is a broadening and diversifying array of security challenges that cannot be dealt with by a single country alone. With respect to space and cyber domains, establishing international rules and norms has been a security agenda. In maritime domain, there have been cases where country unilaterally claims its entitlements or take actions based on its own assertions that are incompatible with existing international order. These have generated undue infringement upon freedom in high seas. In addition, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles as well as worsening international terrorism remain grave challenges for the international community. Against such

background, qualitatively and quantitatively superior military powers concentrate in Japan’s surroundings where clear trends are observed in further military build-up and increase in military activities.

Facing such a security environment and other factors, it has become indispensable for Japan to make more proactive efforts in line with the principle of international cooperation.. Japan cannot secure its own peace and security by itself, and the international community expects Japan to play a more proactive role for peace and stability in the world, in a way commensurate with its national capabilities. Japan will continue to adhere to the course that it has taken to date as a peace-loving nation, and as a major player in world politics and economy, contribute even more proactively in securing peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community, while achieving its own security as well as peace and stability in the region, as a “Proactive Contributor to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation.

### (2) Enforcement of the “Legislation for Peace and Security,” and Initiatives Based on the Legislation

In order to adapt to the changes in the security environment surrounding Japan and to secure the lives and peaceful livelihood of its people, it is

important to advance vibrant diplomacy to create a stable and predictable international environment. In addition, it is important to enable seamless responses to any situation, and to contribute even more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community under the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation. To achieve these objectives, the “Legislation for Peace and Security” took effect in March 2016.

This legislation aims to solidify Japan’s orientation as a peace-loving nation, including adherence to its exclusively defense-oriented policy. Moreover, the legislation strengthens the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhances the deterrence capability of Japan, thus enabling Japan to prevent conflicts beforehand, and to further contribute to the international community.

Japan has taken advantage of a variety of opportunities to thoroughly explain the “Legislation for Peace and Security” to foreign countries. Not only the U.S., but also a number of countries and organizations including Australia, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, European countries, Central and South American countries, and the UN have expressed their understanding and support for this legislation. This clearly demonstrates that the “Legislation for Peace and Security” is legislation that contributes to the peace and security of the world.

### (3) Territorial Integrity

Maintaining territorial integrity is a fundamental responsibility of the Government. Japan’s policy to resolutely protect its land, sea, and airspace remains unchanged. Japan will continue to maintain its stance of responding firmly but in a calm manner. Based on this, the relevant government agencies are working in close

cooperation to advance measures to ensure a seamless and adequate response to any form of unlawful acts. At the same time, the Government of Japan engages in proactive efforts to promote awareness of Japan’s position on territorial integrity among the international community, making use of the contacts and knowledge of our diplomatic missions overseas.

## 2 Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

### (1) Overview of Japan-U.S. Security Relationship

Under the security environment surrounding Japan, which is becoming increasingly severe and uncertain at a remarkably rapid pace, it is indispensable to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and to enhance the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance not only for the peace and security of Japan, but also for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. The Japan-U.S. Alliance has become more solid than ever under the relationship of trust between their leaders. Given this, Japan and the U.S. are further enhancing their deterrence and response capabilities under the Guidelines and the Legislation for Peace and Security. Through such efforts, Japan and the U.S. have been expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including ballistic missiles defense, cyberspace, outer space, and maritime security. Japan and the U.S. have been working closely on the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma and of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam and other locations in order to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

## (2) Japan-U.S. Security and Defense Cooperation in Various Fields

### A Efforts Under the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the “Guidelines”)

The Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation announced at the April 2015 meeting of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (“2+2”), reviewed and updated the general framework and policy direction of the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation. Through the Alliance Coordination Mechanism (ACM) established under these Guidelines, Japan and the U.S. have shared information closely, established a common understanding of the situation, and provided “seamless” responses from peacetime to contingencies. In the “2+2” meeting held in August 2017, four cabinet-level officials from Japan and the U.S. concurred on moving forward on identifying measures to further strengthen the Alliance, including through reviewing the roles, missions, and capabilities of each country. At the same time, they reaffirmed the Alliance’s commitment to the security of Japan through the full range of capabilities, including U.S. nuclear forces. There have been active interpersonal exchange between high-level officials, with visits to Japan by Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army General Milley in February 2018, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command Admiral Harris in April, Secretary of Defense Mattis and Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Davidson in June, and Commandant of the Marine Corps General Neller in August. In addition, the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue was held in March and October, in which Japan and the U.S. had candid discussions about ways to secure the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Through these multilayered efforts, Japan will continue to promote security and defense cooperation with the U.S., further enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance.

### B Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD)

Japan has been making steady efforts to develop and engage in the production of the BMD system, such as the decision to introduce a ground-deployed Aegis system (Aegis Ashore) reached in 2017, while continuing cooperation with the U.S., which includes the steady implementation of joint development and joint production of the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3 Block IIA) since 2006. Japan has been fully prepared to protect the lives and property of its citizens from the threat of ballistic missiles from North Korea under any circumstances.

### C Cyberspace

The two countries held the sixth Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue in July in Washington, D.C. in the U.S. Based on the necessity for cross-government efforts by both Japan and the U.S., participants from both sides had a follow-up discussion on matters including the outcome of the fifth dialogue held in July 2017. They also engaged in wide-ranging discussions on Japan-U.S. cooperation in cyberspace, including awareness about the situations, cyber countermeasures in both countries, cooperation in the international arena, and support for capacity building, and issued a joint press release after the dialogue.

### D Outer Space

Japan and the U.S. have held discussions on a wide range of cooperation on space at the July Comprehensive Dialogue on Space and the Space Security Dialogue. Japan and the U.S. will continue to cooperate on space security, including through mutual exchanges of information in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and others, concrete examinations of cooperation over hosted payloads (which refers to sending equipment and materials for missions along on artificial satellites), and more. In October, for the first time ever, Japan took part in the Schriever Wargame, which is a multinational tabletop exercise hosted by U.S. Air Force Space Command.

**E Trilateral Cooperation**

Japan and the U.S. place importance on security and defense cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. In particular, the two countries are steadily promoting trilateral cooperation with Australia, India, and the ROK. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in June and November as well as other meetings, the leaders affirmed that such trilateral cooperation with these countries promotes the shared security interests of Japan and the U.S., and contributes to improving the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, at the first Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting held in November, it was affirmed that cooperation between the three countries is of the utmost significance when it comes to ensuring the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. They also agreed to continue to strengthen their trilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of maritime security and enhancing regional connectivity.

**F Information Security**

Information security plays a crucial role in advancing cooperation within the context of the alliance. Based on this perspective, both countries continue to hold discussions designed to enhance their cooperation regarding information security.

**G Maritime Security**

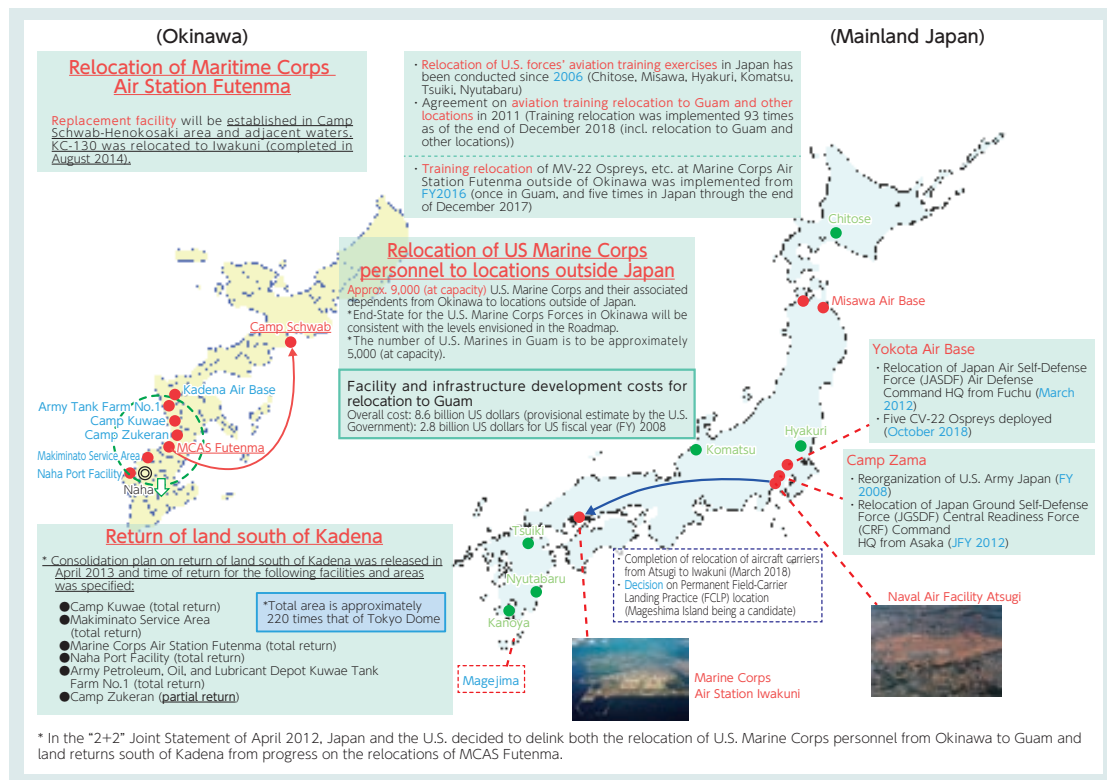
In fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS), Japan and the U.S. stress the importance of solving maritime issues in accordance with international law. The Guidelines announced in April 2015 also provide that Japan and the U.S. will cooperate closely with each other on measures to maintain maritime order in accordance with international law, including the freedom of navigation. What is more, the two countries are undertaking various projects and forms of cooperation within the countries of the Indo-Pacific region in order to achieve a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

**(3) Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan**

In the joint statement issued by Japan and the United States in February 2017, the two Governments affirmed, for the first time in a document at the summit level, that constructing the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) at the Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and adjacent waters is the only solution to avoid the continued use of MCAS Futenma. Furthermore, in the “2+2” joint statement in August 2017, at the Japan-U.S. Working Lunch and Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in November 2017 as well as the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2018, Japan and the U.S. reaffirmed their commitment to implement the existing arrangements, which aim to maintain operational and deterrent capabilities, while also mitigating the impact on local communities, and enhancing support from local communities for the presence and operations of U.S. forces in Japan. Japan and the U.S. will also continue to work closely on the steady implementation of the relocation of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to outside the country such as Guam, which will begin in the first half of the 2020s, and on the return of land south of Kadena based on the April 2013 “Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas in Okinawa.”

In addition to the return of a major portion of the Northern Training Area (NTA, approximately 4,000 hectares) in December 2017 and the return of West Futenma Housing Area of Camp Zukeran (approximately 51 hectares) in March 2018, the return of land along the eastern side of MCAS Futenma (approximately 4 hectares) was achieved in July 2017 along with the return of land along National Route No. 58 in the Makiminato Service Area (approximately 3 hectares) in March 2018. As a result of the return of these lands, if National Route No. 58, which serves as a major arterial traffic route through the southern part of Okinawa, were to be widened, then this would contribute to the alleviation of traffic congestion that hinders the local residents in their everyday lives, and to

## Realignment of U.S. forces in Japan



the improvement of the living environment for a great many prefectural residents.

Additionally, regarding the relocation of carrier air wing squadrons from Naval Air Facility Atsugi to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni that commenced in August 2017 based on the U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation of May 2006, the relocation of all aircraft units was completed in March 2018. This relocation will mitigate the problem of noise and other issues that residents living near Naval Air Facility Atsugi, which is located in a densely populated area, have long tolerated. In addition, when it comes to the relocation of functions for receiving aircraft from MCAS Futenma during emergencies at Nyutabaru Air Base and Tsuki Air Base pursuant to this roadmap, an agreement was reached on the installation of the facilities needed to transfer this functionality in October 2018.

In March 2018, the First Think of Okinawa's Future in the United States (TOFU) Program was held, in which 20 high-school / university students and other young people were dispatched from Okinawa Prefecture to the U.S. The goal of this program was to provide opportunities for young people from Okinawa to witness for themselves what the U.S. is truly like and the role that Japan plays in the international community. It was also designed to work toward promoting mutual understanding by having them interact with local important officials and young people in English.

The Government of Japan will continue to make every effort to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, by soundly promoting the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, including the prompt relocation to Henoko and the return of MCAS Futenma, while still maintaining the deterrence capabilities of said forces.

#### (4) Host Nation Support (HNS)

Under the security environment surrounding Japan, which is becoming increasingly severe and uncertain at a remarkably rapid pace, from the standpoint that it is important to ensure smooth and effective operation of the U.S. Forces, Japan bears the rent for USFJ facilities and areas and the Facility Improvement Program (FIP) funding stipulated within the scope of the Status of U.S. Forces Agreement. In addition to this, under the special measures agreements, Japan also bears labor costs, utility costs, and training relocation costs for USFJ.

Based on the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and special measures agreement that came into force on April 1, 2016, the Government of Japan bears Host Nation Support (HNS) from FY2016 to FY2020.

#### (5) Various Issues Related to the Presence of U.S. Forces in Japan

To ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the stable presence of USFJ as the linchpin of these arrangements, it is important to mitigate the impact of U.S. Forces' activities on residents living in the vicinity and to gain their understanding and support regarding the presence of U.S. Forces. In particular, the importance of promoting mitigation of the impact on Okinawa, where U.S. Forces' facilities and areas are concentrated, has been confirmed mutually between Japan and the U.S. on numerous occasions, including the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting from April 2018. The Government of Japan will continue to work to address the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan. At the same time, the Government of Japan has been making its utmost efforts to make improvements in specific issues in light of the requests of local communities such as preventing incidents and accidents involving U.S. Forces, abating the noise by U.S. Forces' aircraft, and dealing with

environmental issues within USFJ facilities and areas, including the sound implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship concluded in 2015 and the Agreement on Cooperation with regard to Implementation Practices relating to the Civilian Component of the United States Armed Forces in Japan concluded in 2017.

#### (6) United Nations Command (UNC) and U.S. Forces in Japan

As the Korean War broke out in June 1950, United Nations Command (UNC) was established in July of the same year based on UN Security Council Resolution 83 and Resolution 84. Following the ceasefire agreement concluded in July 1953, UNC Headquarters was relocated to Seoul, South Korea in July 1957, and UNC (Rear) was established in Japan. UNC (Rear) placed in Yokota Air Base currently has a stationed commander and three other staff and military attaches from nine countries who are stationed at embassies in Tokyo as liaison officers for UNC.

Based on Article 5 of the Agreement Regarding the Status of the United Nations Forces in Japan, UNC may use the U.S. Forces' facilities and areas in Japan to the minimum extent required to provide support for military logistics for UNC. At present, UNC is authorized to use the following seven facilities: Camp Zama, U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, U.S. Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Yokota Air Base, Kadena Air Base, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, and White Beach Area.

### 3 Global Security

#### (1) Regional Security

The security environment surrounding the Asia-Pacific region is becoming increasingly severe due to various reasons such as the shift in the global power balance. Meanwhile, it would be difficult to say that the framework of regional security



cooperation is sufficiently institutionalized because of the diversity of political, economic and social systems in the region. Therefore, Japan has been making efforts to realize a desirable regional security environment for Japan, by strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and combining bilateral and multilateral security cooperation at multiple levels. Japan also strives to achieve a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” from the perspective of promoting the stability and prosperity of the extensive region stretching from the Asia-Pacific, passing through the Indian Ocean, to the Middle East and Africa, by treating this region as an integrated whole and securing the free and open international maritime order in the Indo-Pacific.

Japan is working to further strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, as well as to enhance security cooperation with various countries other than the U.S. In relation to ASEAN Member States, through such efforts as providing patrol vessels, Japan continuously supports the efforts toward enhancing the coast guard capabilities of the Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia and other countries. In relation to India, in the Japan-India Vision Statement issued when Prime Minister Modi of India visited Japan in October, the two leaders iterated their unwavering commitment to working together toward a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” At the Summit Meeting, the two leaders shared the view on the commencement of official negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). In relation to Australia, at the eighth Japan-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”) held in October, the Ministers confirmed their commitment to further deepening the security and defense cooperation between Japan and Australia, two countries with the will and capability to contribute proactively to the stability and prosperity of the region. At the Summit Meeting in November, the leaders affirmed that the two countries share a vision for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” and shared the view on working

together for regional stability and prosperity. In relation to the UK, at the Japan-UK Summit Meeting in January 2019, the two leaders shared the view that Japan-UK security cooperation has developed significantly and has entered a new chapter, and that they would further advance concrete cooperation toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” In relation to France, ACSA was signed in July. At the Japan-France Summit Meeting in October, the two leaders welcomed the signing of ACSA, the foundation of defense cooperation, and shared the view on further building up concrete cooperation between Japan and France toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” In relation to Canada, the two countries signed ACSA in April. At the Japan-Canada Summit Meeting in November, the leaders shared the view that they would deepen the strategic relationship between Japan and Canada, including security and defense cooperation. Their fourth Foreign and Defense meeting (“2+2”) Vice-Ministerial Dialogue was held in December. In relation to the ROK, based on the recognition that cooperation on the North Korea issues is important, the two countries held, inter alia, Japan-ROK Summit Meetings (February, May and September), Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers’ Meetings (March, April, June, July, August and September [twice]) and Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers’ Meetings (January, June and July), and confirmed that they would work closely together between Japan and the ROK, as well as between Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

In addition to strengthening the bilateral cooperation mentioned above, Japan has also been promoting cooperation in the following various frameworks in order to build a network for peace and prosperity in the region: the Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting (November), the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (January, June and July), the Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Strategic Dialogue (August) and the Japan-U.S.-Australia-India Consultations (June and November).



Furthermore, it is also important to enhance the relationships of trust with China and Russia for the stability of the security environment surrounding Japan. The Japan-China relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships, and Japan is striving to develop stable relations of friendship and cooperation from a broad perspective, under the “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests.” As China’s military trend is a major concern for Japan, Japan is making efforts to build multilayered channels for dialogue and exchanges in the field of security with China, including the Japan-China Security Dialogue. Alongside with such efforts to communicate effectively in the policy aspect, Japan is also encouraging China to improve transparency. The Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities of Japan and China signed in May has great significance in the sense of promoting mutual understanding and confidence and avoiding unexpected collision. At the same time, Japan is striving to promote mutual relations of trust through high-level dialogues, including between leaders and foreign ministers. Regarding Japan-Russia relations, while holding political dialogues at various levels, including four Summit Meetings and Foreign Ministers’ Meetings respectively in 2018, Japan has been energetically continuing negotiations with Russia to conclude a peace treaty through the resolution of the territorial issue. In the area of security, the Japan-Russia “2+2” Ministerial Meeting and Security Consultations took place in July. The two countries also held candid discussions on defense and security on such occasions as the visit to Russia by Chief of Joint Staff Kawano in October.

Furthermore, Japan held the first Politico-Military (PM) Dialogue with Israel (October), as well as the 6th PM Dialogue with Pakistan in April, the 14th PM Dialogue with Thailand in September and the 21st PM Dialogue with France in December. Japan also held the 3rd Security Dialogue with Qatar (March) and the 11th Security Dialogue with the ROK (March), as well

as the first Security Consultations with Turkey (January) and Ukraine (October).

In addition, Japan has actively participated in and contributed to multilateral frameworks in the region, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in order to strengthen security cooperation in the region. Among these, the ARF aims at improving the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region through dialogues and cooperation on political and security issues. The ARF is an important security dialogue framework in that it is participated in by various entities including North Korea and the EU and also focuses on confidence building through various initiatives. In August, the 25th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held, where participating Ministers candidly exchanged views mainly on regional and international affairs, including the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea. Additionally, at the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies which Japan established jointly with Malaysia and Singapore, the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), including the ones proposed by Japan, were adopted. Japan is making a proactive contribution through, for example, twice co-chairing the ISM on Maritime Security.

Furthermore, in addition to government-to-government dialogues (track 1), Japan actively utilizes frameworks where participants from both public and private sectors (track 1.5) exchange opinions and explain their security policies. Japan participates in various conferences, including the IISS Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) (Singapore). Also Foreign Minister Kono attended the Regional Security Summit (Manama Dialogue) (Bahrain) in December as well as the Munich Security Conference (Germany) in February 2018, as a part of Japan’s efforts to promote other countries’ understanding of Japan’s security policies, and to facilitate cooperation and confidence-building in the region.

## (2) Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

### A On-the-Ground Initiatives

#### (A) UN Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKOs)

Traditionally, UN PKOs are positioned between parties to a dispute, and by monitoring ceasefires and the withdrawal of troops, they help calm the situation or prevent the recurrence of hostilities with the aim to support the settlement of the dispute through dialogue between the parties involved. However, following the changes in the international environment since the end of the Cold War, including an increase in civil wars, UN PKOs have multifaceted mandates in addition to its traditional mandates such as monitoring of ceasefires. These new mandates include support in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, security sector reform, elections, human rights, and the rule of law as well as the promotion of the political process and the protection of civilians. As of the end of October 2018, 14 UN PKO missions were deployed, primarily in the Middle East and Africa, with a total of over 100,000 military, police and civilian personnel deployed to these missions. In response to the increasing complexity and scale of the mandates and the associated shortages of personnel, equipment and financial resources, discussions on more effective and efficient implementation of UN PKOs are underway in various fora, primarily within the UN.

Based on the Act on Cooperation with UN Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO Act), Japan has dispatched more than 12,500 personnel to a total of 27 missions including UN PKO since 1992. More recently, Japanese staff officers have been dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) since 2011, while the engineering units have been dispatched there since 2012. The engineering units in the South Sudanese capital of Juba and the surrounding areas have undertaken such activities as developing infrastructure such as roads, supporting displaced persons through the provision of water supplies,

as well as site preparation, and concluded their activities in May 2017. On the other hand, four SDF officers are currently still on active duty at the UNMISS Headquarters. Japan will continue to contribute in various ways to peace and stability in South Sudan. Under the banner of “Proactive Contribution to Peace,” building on the past experiences of peacekeeping operations and making use of its own strengths, Japan will also continue to contribute proactively in the field of international peace cooperation in the future such as through dispatching units and individuals, as well as enhancing capacity building.

#### (B) ODA and Other Cooperation to Facilitate Peacebuilding

Japan attaches importance to peacebuilding as part of its international cooperation and it is positioned as one of the priority issues in Japan’s Development Cooperation Charter.

In the area of addressing humanitarian crises, it is effective to combine coordination between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, with peacebuilding. It is important to fundamentally enhance measures to address the root causes of conflict, not only by taking post-conflict responses but by focusing more on the prevention of conflicts and their recurrence through nation-building and social stabilization measures during peace time. Japan places great importance on such “humanitarian, development and peace nexus,” and has been providing support for peacebuilding particularly in the following countries and regions.

##### a Middle East

Japan has provided comprehensive supports for peace and stability in the Middle East. For example, Japan provides food and refugee assistance in collaboration with international organizations for countries affected by conflicts, including Syria and its neighboring countries, Yemen and Afghanistan. In addition, Japan supports the development of human resources engaged in

nation building. In 2018, Japan accepted 25 people from Afghanistan, including government officials who are expected to contribute to such fields as agricultural and rural development and infrastructure development for the reconstruction of the country. Japan also accepted 29 students from Syria to offer education to young people who were deprived of opportunities to attend school due to the Syrian crisis. Furthermore, in February, Japan decided to provide supports for holding fair and peaceful elections in Afghanistan.

From the perspective of humanitarian-development nexus, for example, in Jordan, Japan provided employment supports at the Zaatari Refugee Camp for Syrian refugees by, inter alia, offering technical guidance on electric power. Japan also contributed to improving the living conditions in the camp, for instance, through maintenance of electric power facilities of surrounding shelters conducted by the beneficiaries of Japan's technical guidance.

## **b Africa**

Japan has contributed to laying the foundations for peace and stability in Africa, including providing supports for “Promoting social stability for shared prosperity,” one of the priority areas identified at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016.

For example, Japan has conducted criminal justice training since 2014 for police officers, prosecutors, judges and others from eight Francophone African countries, and has supported stabilization of the Sahel region through capability strengthening of investigation and judicial bodies. Japan has also contributed to consolidation of peace through fair elections, such as by assisting the registration of voters for general elections in Zimbabwe in summer 2018 (presidential, upper and lower house and local elections). In addition, in 2018, Japan decided to

provide security equipment to countries including Burkina Faso and Mali to strengthen their capacity for security against frequent terrorist attacks and transnational crimes.

In 2018, Japan provided assistance for developing the capacity and rehabilitating the facilities of centers for disaster and emergency rescue, such as fire departments, in Côte d'Ivoire, which reemploy ex-combatants of anti-government militias. In the Central African Republic, Japan provided assistance including vocational training and livelihood improvement supports for returnees and ex-combatants of armed forces, contributing to promoting peace, security and reconciliation in post-civil war countries.

Japan supports PKO training centers operated by African countries. Between 2008 and 2018, Japan contributed a total of 52 million US dollars to such centers in 13 countries and contributed to building up the peacekeeping capabilities of Africa.

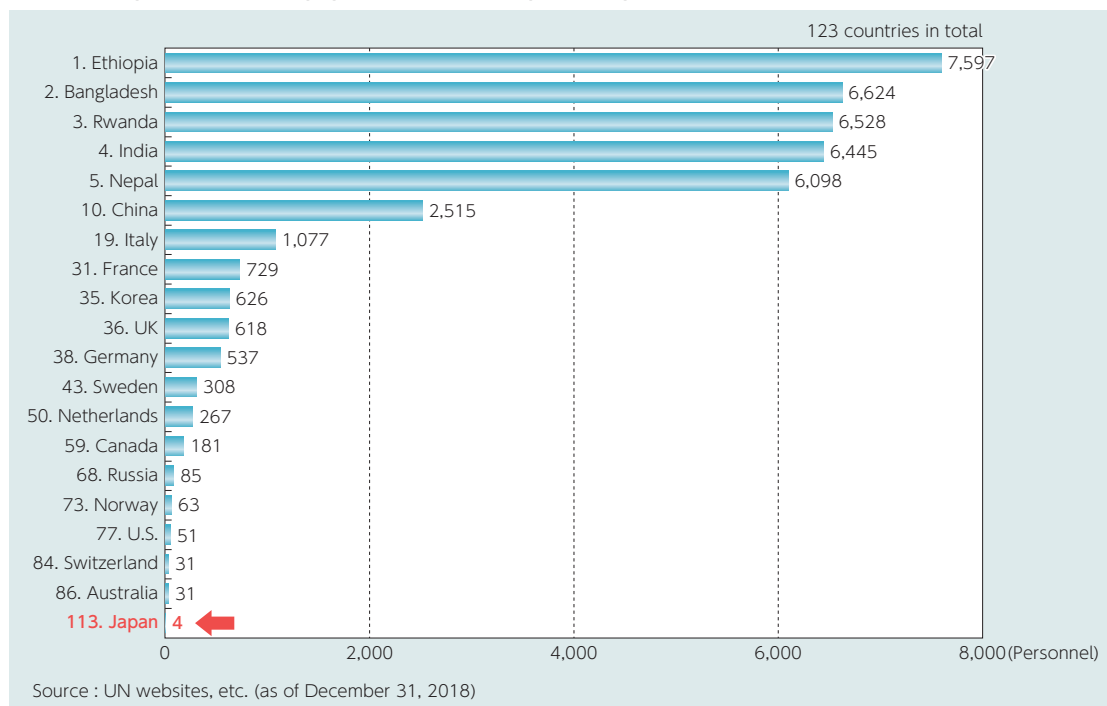
## **B Initiatives within the UN (Peacebuilding)**

Based on the understanding that many regional conflicts and civil wars are rekindled even after the conflict has ended, and that, it is extremely important to provide appropriate support in the post-conflict period, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established in 2005 with the aim of offering advice on integrated support, from conflict resolution to recovery, reintegration, and reconstruction. The PBC conducts discussions to identify priority issues and formulate peacebuilding strategies in the agenda countries<sup>1</sup>. Japan has served as a member of the Organizational Committee since the PBC's establishment and contributed to its activities.

Two resolutions were adopted in April 2016: the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/70/262) on the “Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture” including the PBC,

<sup>1</sup> Five countries of Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic, and Liberia.

## Peacekeepers for military, police and headquarters personnel under the UN mission



and the UN Security Council Resolution 2282. These resolutions recommended the improvement of the efficiency and flexibility of the PBC, along with the strengthening of cooperation between the PBC and the UN Security Council as well as other organizations. In accordance with the General Assembly Resolution, the UN Secretary-General issued a report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) in 2018. The report makes a variety of proposals for, inter alia: enhancing financing for peacebuilding; increasing operational and policy coherence of PBC; strengthening UN leadership, accountability and capacity; and boosting partnerships with international organizations and the civil society.

At the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace held in April, Japan expressed support for the Secretary-General's initiatives in the area of peacebuilding. At the meeting, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/72/276), which includes a request to the Secretary-General to present an interim report regarding his proposals

to the General Assembly during its 73rd session (Security Council resolution 2413 of the same content was also adopted).

Japan has contributed proactively to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) since its establishment in 2006. Announcing its aim to allocate 10 million US dollars in September 2016, Japan has contributed a total of 50.5 million US dollars (2.0 million US dollars in 2018) and ranks sixth among the major donor countries as of December 2018.

## C Human Resource Development

### (A) The Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development

While civilian experts with a high level of skill and expertise have a substantial role to play in the field of post-conflict peacebuilding, the number of those who are capable of fulfilling the role is insufficient, and therefore, the development of relevant human resources remains a major challenge. Japan has been implementing programs for human resource development in

order to cultivate civilian experts who can play a leading role in the field of peacebuilding and development. As of the end of the FY2018, a total of about 750 people have been trained. The trainees who completed the programs have gone on to play an active role in the field of peacebuilding and development worldwide in such countries as South Sudan and Afghanistan, and have received high acclaim from both the UN and other countries.

In the FY2018 program, a training course for human resources and a training course for mid-career practitioners with experience in the field of peacebuilding and development were implemented. In addition, a new course was implemented to assist those who have certain professional and transferable experience in this field in order to start building up their new careers at international organizations.

### **(B) Training for United Nations Peacekeepers of Various Countries**

Japan has been supporting peacekeepers from various countries participating in UN PKOs to enhance their capabilities. From 2015 to 2018, Japan has dispatched 125 JSDF instructors for training 211 future engineering personnel from eight countries in Africa that have expressed their intention to dispatch engineering units to UN PKOs (the UN Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities). These instructors conduct

training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment. UN Secretary-General Guterres commended Japan's supports for this project during his visit to Japan in August 2018. At the High-level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) in September 2018, Secretary-General Guterres also remarked that this project represents an innovative approach to addressing the urgent challenge of improving peacekeeper capabilities. A decision was made to expand this project to Asia and the surrounding regions, and trial training was conducted in Viet Nam from November to December. Japan also dispatches instructors and other personnel and provides financial assistance to PKO Training Centers in Asia and African nations.

Furthermore, Japan and the UN co-organized a training course in Japan for capacity enhancement of Women's Protection Advisers engaged in the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence in UN PKO missions and at other levels.

### **(3) Initiatives to Combat Security Threats**

#### **A Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Measures**

While operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) carried out in Iraq and Syria had effectively reduced the areas dominated by ISIL, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism is spreading throughout the world, including Asia, as a result of the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) who were under the influence of ISIL to their home countries or to third countries. In May 2018, terrorist bombings occurred against churches in Surabaya City, Indonesia, causing over 13 deaths, including of six bombers, and injuring over 40 people. ISIL claimed responsibility for the terror attack.

In the "G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism" compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, Japan stressed the importance of the following points: (1) concrete



Trial training of UN Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities (RDEC) in Asia and the surrounding regions

counter-terrorism measures including the utilization of Interpol databases and passenger name records (PNR); (2) promoting tolerance through dialogues aimed at preventing violent extremism; and (3) support for capacity-building in developing countries. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit held in 2018, the leaders reaffirmed that the G7 would continue to work together to counter terrorism. With regard to (1), which includes the utilization of advance passenger information (API) and PNR possessed by airlines and biological data, as a measure to address FTFs returning or relocating to their home countries or to third countries from areas dominated by ISIL, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2396 in December 2017 which introduces some obligations on Member States to utilize and share such information. Japan, as a co-sponsor of the resolution, contributed to its adoption. With regard to (2), namely, measures to counter violent extremism, which is the root cause of terrorism, Japan considers it important to build tolerant societies that do not exclude but are receptive to different values. From this perspective, Japan has given priority to community supports through promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue and empowering women and youths (capability enhancement and advancement).

With regard to (3), Japan's counter-terrorism assistance places particular emphasis on Asia. As one of the initiatives to strengthen comprehensive counter-terrorism measures, Japan announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2016 that it would provide support of 45 billion Japanese yen and develop 2,000 personnel in the next three years. Japan has already largely exceeded this target by providing support of 80 billion Japanese yen and developing approximately 2,600 personnel for counter-terrorism in the first two years after the announcement. More specifically, to strengthen protection from terror attacks during the 18th Asian Games held in Indonesia in 2018, Japan provided counter-terrorism equipment made in Japan (such as facial recognition system) for the

main stadium of the Games. In September 2018, Japan also held a workshop for practitioners from ASEAN countries using such equipment, as part of efforts to promote the use of facial recognition and other biological data.

As another initiative, Japan has continued the invitation program for Islamic schoolteachers for 15 years, arranging interfaith dialogue, cultural visits and school visits for the participants. Japan will continue to implement such initiatives moving forward, in order to contribute to promote moderation and to create more tolerant societies that are receptive to different values.

Japan also implements counter-terrorism measures through international organizations. Japan has contributed about 66 million US dollars (supplementary budget for FY2017) to international organizations and funds, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), thereby providing support for individual projects to counter terrorism and violent extremism through these organizations.

In addition, Japan held bilateral counter-terrorism consultations in 2018 with the UK, Tunisia, Russia, China and Turkey to exchange information on terrorism situations and confirm the strengthening of coordination.

The Government of Japan has promoted counter-terrorism measures in collaboration with relevant countries and organizations. Based on the view that information gathering is critical for combating terrorism, the Government established the Counter Terrorism Unit - Japan (CTU-J) in December 2015 and has been making concerted efforts to gather information with the Prime Minister's Office serving as the control tower. A Japanese national who had been detained in Syria for over three years was released in October 2018. This was the outcome of the principal role exercised by the CTU-J in requesting the cooperation of relevant countries and dealing with the situation by making use of Japan's information network.



It is also significant that the Consular Affairs Bureau and the CTU-J fully acknowledge each other's roles and have worked together closely to execute their important responsibility of securing the safety of Japanese nationals overseas. In light of this experience, Japan will continue to further enhance its information gathering through the CTU-J and take all possible measures to counter terrorism and ensure the safety of Japanese nationals overseas.

### **B Criminal Justice Initiatives**

The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ("Congress") and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are in charge of shaping policy on crime prevention and criminal justice in the international community. In April 2020, the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held in Kyoto ("Kyoto Congress" [See Opening Special Feature "Focusing on 2019-2020"]). Japan is making preparations to host this meeting in collaboration with relevant countries, organizations, ministries and agencies and others. Under the overall theme of "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda," the Kyoto Congress is expected to adopt a political declaration concerning measures on crime prevention and criminal justice as well as approaches for international cooperation, and discussions are underway on the content to be included in the declaration.

Furthermore, Japan provides support to improve prosecution capabilities of law-enforcement authorities in Southeast Asia and to enhance capacities related to measures against cybercrime by providing financial contributions to UNODC and through financial contributions from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

In July 2017, Japan concluded the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), in order to prevent transnational organized crime including terrorism more effectively, and to promote cooperation to fight

against such crime, which establishes a global legal framework to tackle this problem. Japan advances international cooperation including investigation assistance, in accordance with UNTOC.

### **C Anti-corruption Measures**

As a state party to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which sets out provisions for international cooperation and measures to tackle acts of corruption, such as bribery and embezzlement of property by public officials, Japan has actively participated in discussions for strengthening international cooperation on prevention and eradication of corruption at conferences of the state parties of the convention and other occasions. In addition, Japan has been conducting training for anti-corruption authorities in developing countries with the aim of strengthening their investigation and prosecution capabilities, by making financial contributions to UNODC. In 2018, Japan contributed approximately 120,000 US dollars to UNODC to support the operation of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, which reviews the status of implementation of the Convention by each state party.

Within the context of the G20, Japan, as the incoming G20 presidency, actively took part in the activities of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and contributed to the discussions for developing deliverables, including the High-Level Principles for Preventing Corruption and Ensuring Integrity in State-Owned Enterprises.

The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) Working Group on Bribery verifies each state party's implementation status of the "Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions" to prevent and combat the bribery of foreign public officials. Japan is an active participant in this program. Japan has also supported the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative promoted jointly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the OECD as part of its contributions toward enhancing anti-



corruption measures in the region.

#### **D Measures to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism**

In terms of measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an international framework that establishes the international standards that countries should implement, as well as mutually examines their implementation status. As a founding member, Japan has actively participated in these discussions. In recent years, the FATF has been engaged in initiatives to prevent the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and has issued the FATF statement that calls for the eradication of illegal financial activities by North Korea.

Japan provides capacity building assistance to Iran and the ASEAN countries in areas such as the development of legal systems, in cooperation with UNODC to promote international efforts to disrupt money laundering and stem the flow of funds to terrorists.

#### **E Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

Japan has strengthened its domestic mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, and also proactively provides assistance to developing countries, based on “Japan’s 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.” This Action Plan was developed in order to effectively tackle trafficking in persons, which involves increasingly sophisticated and latent methods. For example, in 2018, Japan launched some new training programs through JICA to deepen mutual understanding and promote more effective regional cooperation on human trafficking countermeasures (especially prevention, protection and support to restore the autonomy of victims) of stakeholders in Asian countries, including Japan. With respect to cooperation with international organizations, in 2018, through funding to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan continued to provide assistance for the safe

repatriation of foreign victims of trafficking in persons protected in Japan and carry out social rehabilitation support programs to prevent the repetition of trafficking after returning to their countries. Japan also funded training programs for law-enforcement authorities in Southeast Asian countries through projects organized by UNODC.

As a state party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Japan has also further deepened its cooperation with other countries with a view to eradicating trafficking in persons.

#### **F Measures to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking**

Japan works in cooperation with UNODC to investigate and analyze synthetic drugs such as amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances in the Asia-Pacific region, provide support for improving container control capacity of regulatory authorities at air and sea ports, and put in place measures against illicit drug trafficking that is spreading across borders. In relation to Afghanistan, which is the world’s largest region for the illegal cultivation of opium poppy, Japan has contributed 5 million US dollars to UNODC in order to strengthen border controls, promote alternative development to drug crop cultivation and enhance capacity building of narcotics agents in cooperation with the neighboring countries. Furthermore, at the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) held in March 2018, Japan, Russia, Central Asian countries and UNODC co-organized a side event on law enforcement capacity-building to counter narcotic drugs in West and Central Asia. Japan appealed its proactive supports for the region, including the “Domodedovo Project” being implemented among Japan, Russia and UNODC (See Column “Combating the drug trafficking in Afghanistan – Establishment of a Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan under the Trilateral Cooperation between Japan, the Russian Federation and UNODC”).

## **Combating the Drug Trafficking in Afghanistan**

### **– Establishment of a Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan under the Trilateral Cooperation between Japan, the Russian Federation and UNODC –**

Hideki Hosaka, Project Coordinator  
Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The cultivation of illegal opium poppy is through the roof in Afghanistan against the backdrop of country's unstable security situation and prevalence of poverty. Opium and heroin, which have many addicts in the world, are derived from opium poppy and today, it is said, Afghanistan accounts for about 90 percent of world's production of illegal opium poppy. Countering the drug problems is one of the important missions for stability of Afghanistan and its neighbours. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) takes various initiatives in this field with Member States, which include opium survey, capacity building of counter-narcotics authorities, improvement of the criminal justice system, development of alternative crops, drug abuse prevention, medical care of the addicts and rehabilitation support.

As part of such activities UNODC has been implementing the "Domodedovo Training Project" since September 2012 in coordination with Japan and Russia. In this project, counter-narcotics officers of Afghanistan and the five Central Asian countries are invited to take part in the specialized training conducted in the suburb of Moscow under the curricula of the "Domodedovo Training Centre" – a professional and vocational institution of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the financial contribution of Japan. In this project, Japan provides not only project fund but also visible technical support, dispatching experts of Narcotics Control Department of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan to every training course.



The "Domodedovo Training Project" received support from beneficiary countries, namely Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries. In the past seven years, a total of 195 counter-narcotics officers were trained, contributing to the enhancement of operational activities in the countries. This is unique cooperation format, involving three Partners – Japan, Russia and the UN – on board, working together to support the counter-narcotics efforts of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. It can be regarded among one of the practices to meet the "Shared Responsibility" declared in the Outcome Document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in 2016.

In October 2018 the "trilateral cooperation" expanded its field with a new project for establishment of the "Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan" with the support of another important partner: the Government of Afghanistan. The police dogs (K9) for drug detection are reliable assistants to tackle the smuggling and illicit trafficking of drugs, and they are recruited in police agencies and customs authorities in all over the world including Japan. The introduction of counter narcotics K9 is the first attempt in Afghanistan. UNODC will address this mission step by step, utilizing know-how of Russia in the field of education of K9 and handlers as well as the financial and technical assistance of Japan. First step was already made: in October 2018, one-month training course for managers, chief handlers and administrative officers in future K9 Unit was conducted in Rostov-on-Don, the Russian Federation.



In November 2018, the representatives of UNODC, Afghanistan, Japan and Russia met in Vienna and signed a declaration to show their mutual commitment for further cooperation, highlighting the past achievements as well as the new development for introduction of counter-narcotics K9. It is expected that the four partners will continue their cooperation under the trilateral cooperation format, making use of the advantage of each country.

\* The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

#### (4) The Oceans and Seas

Japan is a maritime nation that has achieved economic growth through maritime trade and development of marine resources, and has pursued “Free, Open and Stable Seas.” For Japan, maritime rights and interests, which are the basis for economic survival, including the freedom of navigation and overflight, and development of marine resources, are of great importance toward securing peace, stability and prosperity. To ensure these maritime rights and interests in the long-term and in a stable manner, it is indispensable to maintain and strengthen a maritime order and ensure safe maritime transport.

Furthermore, “Free, Open and Stable Seas,” which are upheld by a maritime order governed by law and rules and not by force, are essential for peace and prosperity not only of Japan, but also of the international community as a whole. To maintain and develop “Free, Open and Stable Seas,” Japan contributes actively to maintaining and strengthening maritime order and ensuring safe maritime transport toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

However, in recent years, there has been an increasing number of cases where the interests of countries clash with each other from the perspective of securing resources and national security. In particular, in the seas of Asia, there has been an increasing number of cases of tension arising from friction between countries, and the international community is closely monitoring these cases with much interest. Against this background, at the 13th Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) held in Singapore in May 2014, Prime Minister Abe stated that it is necessary to fully uphold the “Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea” (See 6(2)). At the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Toronto in April 2018, the ministers stressed the importance of a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, expressed concerns over the situation in the East and South China Seas, and expressed their commitment to addressing

issues such as combating illegal activities at sea, including acts of piracy, and capacity building assistance, including maritime domain awareness (MDA), and promoting cooperation. Furthermore, outside the framework of the G7, Japan has also utilized fora that are related to the East Asia Summit (EAS), including the ARF Inter Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), to actively show the importance of “Free, Open and Stable Seas” and disseminate Japan’s stance and initiatives in the area of maritime security.

Combining various assistances by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, Self-Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard, including capacity building assistance, defense equipment and technology cooperation, and MDA, Japan seamlessly supports coastal states mainly in Asia and Africa to enhance maritime law enforcement capabilities through providing patrol vessels, technical cooperation and human resource development, among other forms of assistance. In this way, Japan has been contributing to establishing and promoting the rule of law at sea.

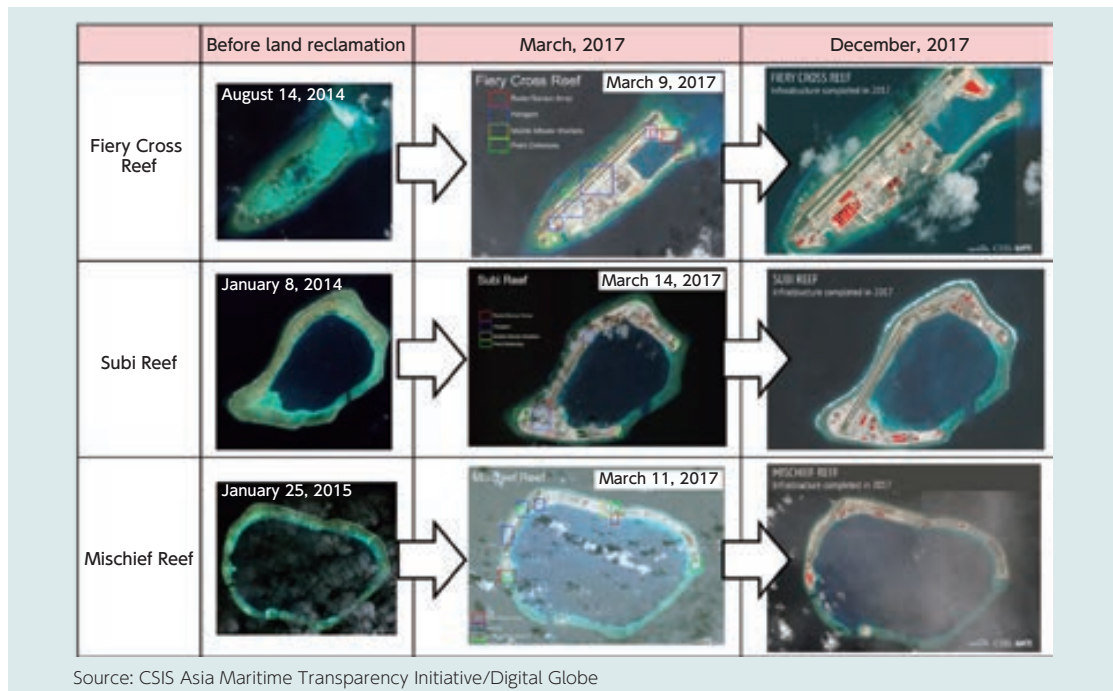
#### **A** Order at Sea

##### (A) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Related Japanese Initiatives

Also known as the “Constitution for the Seas,” UNCLOS is the very basis of a maritime order governed by the rule of law. Japan regards a maritime order, with the Convention at the core, as the cornerstone to ensure Japan’s maritime rights and interests and to facilitate maritime activities. As such, Japan actively contributes to discussions at conferences including the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention and to the activities by relevant international organizations in order to ensure that the Convention will be even more widely applied and implemented appropriately (see 6(2)).

**Uotsurijima of the Senkaku Islands**

Photo: Office of Policy Planning and Coordination on Territory and Sovereignty, Cabinet Secretariat

**Large-scale and rapid development of outposts by China in the South China Sea**

(B) A Challenge to the Maritime Order and Response by Japan and International Community (see Chapter 1, 1(2), Chapter 2, Section 1, 3(1) and Chapter 2, Section 1, 7(2))

**a Situation surrounding the East China Sea**

In the East China Sea, Chinese Government vessels have continued to intrude into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands in

2018, and active operations by Chinese military vessels and aircraft have been observed. In addition, China has been continuing unilateral resource development in areas where the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelves are pending delimitation. In recent years, Japan has found the Chinese side conducted a number of research in the waters surrounding

Japan such as the East China Sea. Many of the research were conducted without Japan's consent or in a manner which Japan did not consent to. Given China's continued attempts to change the status quo unilaterally in the East China Sea, Japan will carefully monitor the trends and movements around its air and sea spaces, continue to respond in a firm but calm manner while making claims that should be made, and at the same time, promote cooperation with the relevant countries including the U.S. in order to achieve peace and stability in the East China Sea.

### **b Issues surrounding the South China Sea**

In the South China Sea, China has been further conducting unilateral actions to change the status quo that increase tensions such as large-scale and rapid building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes, and attempts to create a fait accompli. The international community including Japan has expressed grave concern over such China's actions. Until now, Japan has consistently supported the full enforcement of the rule of law in the South China Sea, and emphasized the importance for all the concerned parties related to the South China Sea to work toward peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law. With regard to dialogues between China and ASEAN concerning issues surrounding the South China Sea, Japan's stance is that the easing of tensions through such initiatives should lead to demilitarization of the area and to a peaceful and open South China Sea.

With regard to the arbitration proceedings based on UNCLOS concerning the conflict between the Philippines and China over the South China Sea, lodged by the Government of the Philippines, the Arbitral Tribunal made its final arbitral award on July 12, 2016. On the same day, Japan released a statement by the Foreign Minister. The statement explains that as the Tribunal's award is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute under the provisions of UNCLOS, the parties to this case are required to

comply with the award, and that Japan strongly expects that the parties' compliance with this award will eventually lead to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.

The issue with regard to the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region and constitutes a legitimate concern of the international community. The issue is also an important matter of concern for Japan, which depends most of its resources and energy on sea transport and places importance on freedom of navigation and overflight, as well as securing safe sea lanes. Cooperation within the international community is of great importance to maintain and develop "Free, Open and Stable Seas." From this perspective, Japan supports the U.S. Freedom of Navigation Operations.

### **B Ensuring Safe Maritime Transport**

Japan actively contributes to ensuring the freedom of navigation and overflight and safe maritime transport, through anti-piracy measures in Asia and Africa, as well as close partnership and cooperation with other countries.

#### **(A) Anti-piracy Measures in Asia**

To encourage regional cooperation in the fight against piracy cases in Asia, Japan was at the forefront of efforts to formulate the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), which entered into force in 2006. Each of the contracting parties provides information and cooperates on piracy cases in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and other regions, via the Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP-ISC) established in Singapore under the Agreement. Japan supports the activities of ReCAAP-ISC through personnel (dispatching the Executive Director and an Assistant Director) and financial contributions. From May 19 to 25, to further strengthen regional coordination and cooperative relations, Japan, in cooperation with ReCAAP-ISC, organized the "Second Capacity



Building Executive Programme on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia” in Tokyo and Kanagawa for participants from all contracting parties. In addition, Japan is implementing capacity building programs for coastal countries in Asia to enhance maritime law enforcement and maritime surveillance, which is highly appraised in the international community.

According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the number of piracy cases in the seas of Southeast Asia was 76 in 2017 and 60 in 2018. In recent years, there have been cases of crew abduction in the Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea in Southeast Asia, posing a threat to vessels navigating in these waters. In view of this situation, Japan announced at the East Asia Summit (EAS) held in November that it would provide steady support of 15 billion Japanese yen over two years toward the realization of “Asia resilient to terrorism,” through comprehensive initiatives for improved safety in the southern part of the Philippines, the Sulu Sea, and the Celebes Sea. Based on these initiatives, Japan will continue to actively support capacity building for maritime safety.

## **(B) Anti-piracy Measures Off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden**

### **a Current status of piracy and armed robbery cases**

According to the IMB, the number of piracy and armed robbery cases (hereinafter referred to as “piracy cases”) off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden was 237 at its peak in 2011, but has since been on a decline, dropping to a low level (zero in 2015, two in 2016, nine in 2017 and three in 2018). Despite sustained efforts in maritime law enforcement activities by the navies of countries, self-defense measures by merchant ships, the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia remain unresolved. Pirates off the coast of Somalia still have the intention and capability to carry out acts of piracy, which requires a careful watch on the situation.

### **b Extension of anti-piracy operations and record of escort activities**

Since 2009, Japan has been conducting anti-piracy operations, without any interruption to the operations, by deploying Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers (with coast guard officers on board) and P-3C maritime patrol aircrafts to the Gulf of Aden. On November 9, 2018, the Government of Japan decided to extend anti-piracy operations based on the Act on Punishment and Countermeasures against Piracy for another year. The deployed destroyers protected 38 merchant ships on 29 escort operations between January and December 2018, while the P-3Cs carried out 237 mission flights, in which they conducted surveillance, information gathering and provided information to naval vessels of other countries.

### **c Promotion of international cooperation in anti-piracy measures**

Japan has been making multi-layered efforts, including support for enhancement of maritime law enforcement capacity of Somalia and neighboring countries as well as for stability of Somalia, in order to solve the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia. Japan has assisted the establishment of Information Sharing Centres in Yemen, Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the construction of the Djibouti Regional Training Center (DRTC), through contributing 15.1 million US dollars to a fund established by the IMO. At DRTC, Japan and France co-organized a seminar on maritime security in October 2017. Japan has also supported seminars in DRTC aimed at capacity building for maritime law-enforcement authorities and others. Moreover, Japan has contributed 4.5 million US dollars to an international trust fund managed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), through which it assists Somalia and neighboring countries in improving courts and training judicial officers, as well as repatriation to Somalia of those found guilty of piracy in the neighboring countries including Seychelles. In December 2015, Japan provided two patrol vessels to the Djibouti Coast

Guard, for which JICA provides capacity building support through its technical cooperation. In February 2018, Japan and Djibouti exchanged notes regarding the provision of vessel for maritime surveillance. With a view to promoting stability in Somalia, Japan has provided a total of 468 million US dollars since 2007 aimed at supporting improvement in basic services and public security through support for the police, and revitalization of domestic economy through vocational training and job creation, among other measures.

### (5) Cyber

Year by year, as cyberspace is becoming an essential platform for people's socioeconomic activities, the scale and the influence of cyberattacks are expanding. As the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 approaches, cybersecurity is a matter of urgent priority.

Furthermore, cyberattacks are characterized as being highly anonymous, advantageous to the attacker, less affected by geographical constraints and able to cross national borders easily. For these reasons, cyber security is an issue that is difficult for a single country to address alone. As such, coordination and cooperation of the international community are essential.

Against this backdrop, in light of the "Cybersecurity Strategy" that was revised in July 2018, Japan has conducted cyber diplomacy based on three pillars: "promotion of the rule of law in cyberspace"; "development of confidence-building measures"; and "cooperation on capacity building."

In respect of "promotion of the rule of law in cyberspace," from its standpoint that existing international law is applicable to cyber activities, Japan has taken active roles in discussions in the international community through the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and other fora. At the UN General Assembly in December, a resolution submitted by the U.S. and co-sponsored by Japan on the establishment of a

sixth GGE was adopted by a majority vote (138 votes in favor and 12 against with 16 abstentions).

In addition, Japan collaborates with other like-minded countries in taking initiatives to deter malicious cyber activities. In December, Japan issued a statement expressing resolute condemnation of a group conducting cyberattacks based in China known as APT10, and urged all the G20 members including China to take responsible actions as a member of the international community.

As regards countermeasures against cybercrime, Japan, as the first country from Asia to become a party to the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), which is the only multilateral treaty on the use of cyberspace, has actively participated in meetings related to the Convention and sought to increase the number of states party, especially in the Asian region.

Regarding the "development of confidence-building measures," to prevent unforeseen situations stemming from cyber activities, it is necessary to deepen understanding of each other's views and heighten confidence in each other. Japan has held consultations and dialogues with 14 countries and regions such as the U.S., the UK, France and Australia. In addition, within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) framework, Japan, together with Malaysia and Singapore, co-chaired the first ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) in April. Through these consultations, Japan strives to exchange information about cyber-related policies and initiatives, deepen mutual understanding and foster confidence-building measures with other countries.

Regarding "cooperation on capacity building," due to the nature of cyberspace, the lack of incident handling capacity of some countries and regions may pose a risk to the entire world. Therefore, capacity building for developing countries is important for ensuring Japan's security as well. Japan has been providing support, including the capacity building of CSIRT



(Computer Security Incident Response Team)<sup>2</sup> and the relevant administrative agencies mainly in ASEAN countries. Based on the “Basic Strategy of Cybersecurity Capacity Building for Developing Countries” formulated by the Government as a whole in October 2016, Japan will continue to provide strategic and efficient assistance on an All-Japan basis.

## **(6) Outer Space**

In recent years, outer space has become congested due to the diversified use of outer space and increasing number of countries using space. In addition, increase of space debris caused by Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests, collisions of satellites, etc., has posed a growing risk to the sustainable and stable use of outer space.

In order to cope with this situation, Japan has engaged in mission assurance for space systems, and is implementing measures to ensure the stable use of outer space, including efforts in cooperation with other countries, notably, Japan’s ally the U.S.

### **A Realizing and Strengthening the Rule of Law in Outer Space**

Based on the environmental changes related to outer space, the international community has been discussing the necessity of formulating new rules for outer space. Japan has also been actively involved in these discussions with the aim of establishing the rule of law in outer space. For example, Japan has actively participated and contributed to discussions at international meetings and other fora, such as the development of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and has played a major role in international rule-making. Prof. Setsuko Aoki of Keio University Law School will serve as the Chair of the COPUOS

Legal Subcommittee in 2020 and 2021. At the COPUOS session in June 2018, a symposium and high-level segment (meeting among key representatives of member states) of a meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) were held, as an opportunity to consider the future course of international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space. At the events, participants confirmed the future course of international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space and the role of outer space as a driving force for sustainable development. A resolution concerning UNISPACE+50 was adopted at the UN General Assembly in October. With regard to the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), a Group of Governmental Experts was established by the resolution submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2017 and its first meeting was held in January 2018 (attended by experts from 25 countries including Japan).

### **B International Dialogues and Consultations on Outer Space**

An increasing number of various bilateral and multilateral dialogues and consultations on outer space have been held with the aim of facilitating international cooperation and information sharing from a broad perspective and promotion of international cooperation, reflecting the growing interest of the international community concerning outer space. Japan also promotes dialogues in the fields of security, science and industry with major space-faring nations and other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Fifth Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space was held in Tokyo in July. The two sides exchanged comprehensive views on space cooperation from a broad perspective on civil and security topics,

<sup>2</sup> A general term which refers to a group to deal with computer security incidents. In order to minimize the damage caused by computer security incidents, they collect and analyze incident-related information, vulnerability information and predictive information of cyberattacks, consider solutions and measures, and cope with the incidents.

and issued a joint statement as an outcome document. In November, Prime Minister Abe and Vice President Pence of the U.S. confirmed that the two countries would strengthen space cooperation in the areas of security, exploration and industry, including considering in a concrete manner cooperation of Hosted Payloads (offering the excess capacity on a satellites to accommodate additional payloads owned and operated by the third party) and the lunar orbital platform, the Gateway. In October, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi of India reiterated their commitment to promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and decided to start an annual space dialogue for enhancing bilateral cooperation on outer space. With respect to multilateral meetings, the 25th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP-25) was co-organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA) in November in Singapore, to enhance the framework on space cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **C Space Science and Exploration, Overseas Development of Japanese Space Industry, and Contributions to Global Challenges**

The progress of space exploration and application for peaceful purposes is a common benefit for all humankind, and is also significant in terms of diplomacy. In particular, the International Space Station (ISS) is an epic project in which 15 countries participate, and has become a symbol of international cooperation in the field of outer space. The Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” is capable of releasing nanosatellites, and is also used to release satellites on behalf of many emerging and developing countries with the aim of providing support for capacity building in the space field. For example, through a JAXA-UN collaboration program (KiboCUBE) that provides opportunities to deploy nanosatellites from

Kibo, Kenya’s first nanosatellite was deployed in May. In March, Japan also hosted the Second International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF2). The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Hayashi served as the Chair of ISEF2, which was attended by ministers and heads of space agencies from 45 countries and international organizations. Topics, on the significance of space exploration, significance of international cooperation, and future forms of cooperation were discussed. Outcome documents were issued, including the “Tokyo Principles for International Space Exploration,” which will serve as a foundation to advance implementation of international space exploration.

It is an important challenge for Japanese space industries to tap into the growth of the expanding market of space development and applications, primarily in emerging countries. Both the public and private sectors are working together to promote entry into the foreign market of the Japanese commercial of space, especially in the Asia Pacific region by utilizing top-level-sales (heads of governments and companies carry out sales activities themselves), diplomatic missions, and utilization of the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System “Michibiki” which commenced operations in November, such as supporting overseas demonstrations of automated driving agricultural machinery, etc. Furthermore, Japan has been contributing to addressing global issues such as climate change, disaster management, forest conservation, marine fisheries resource management, energy resource issues, and supporting capacity building in the field of space in emerging countries through international cooperation by space technology utilization. For example, Japan and Indonesia have commenced a joint development of a high precision fisheries resource management system in Indonesia using a Japanese Earth observation satellite. In addition, Japan has started pilot programs related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

## 4 Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy<sup>3</sup>

### (1) Nuclear Disarmament

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during the war, Japan has the responsibility to take the lead in efforts by the international community to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

In recent years, the global security environment has been severe, and as seen in discussions over the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted in July 2017, apparent divergence of views on the ways of advancing nuclear disarmament exists not only between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, but also among non-nuclear-weapon States that are exposed to the threat of nuclear weapons and those that are not. Considering these circumstances, it is necessary to persevere in realistic and practical measures with the cooperation of nuclear-weapon States in order to advance nuclear disarmament.

Japan continues to pursue bridge building between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States with the aim of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons, through measures such as holding meetings of the “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament,” submitting a draft resolution for the total elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly, and utilizing the framework of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and individual consultations. Moreover, Japan intends to carry out realistic and practical measures that also involve nuclear-weapon States, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

### A Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Japan places importance on maintaining and strengthening the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. At the NPT Review Conference, which is held once every five years with the aim of achieving the goals of the Treaty and ensuring compliance with its provisions, discussions that reflected the international situation of the time have been held since the Treaty entered into force in 1970. At the Review Conference held in 2015, discussions regarding the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction and other issues could not reach a consensus, and the conference ended without document of consent. Against this backdrop, there is growing importance of efforts toward the next NPT Review Conference, to be held in 2020, which marks the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty.

Foreign Minister Kono attended the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, which was held in Geneva from April to May in 2018, and in addition to introducing recommendations from the “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament,” he stated that Japan believes the way toward abolishing nuclear weapons is to accumulate realistic and practical efforts in cooperation with both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States.

### B Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament

The “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament,” was launched in 2017 with the goals of rebuilding trust among countries with divergent views on how to proceed with nuclear disarmament

<sup>3</sup> For more details about Japan’s policy in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, please refer to “Japan’s Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy” (7th Edition) published in 2016 by MOFA.

and of obtaining recommendations that will contribute to the substantive advancement of nuclear disarmament. The Group compiled its recommendations based on discussions in the first meeting in November 2017 and the second meeting in March 2018. At the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in April, Foreign Minister Kono introduced the contents of the recommendations, including transparency, verification, and interactive discussions, and called for concrete actions of the international community. The third meeting was held in Nagasaki in November, and, based on its recommendations, discussions were held from a medium- and long-term perspective on the issues including hard questions regarding the relationship between nuclear disarmament and security that should be resolved on the way to eliminating nuclear weapons.

### **C The Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)**

The NPDI, which is a group of non-nuclear-weapon States from various regions established under the leadership of Japan and Australia in 2010, has served as a bridge between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, and is leading in efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through its realistic and practical proposals, based on the involvement of the Foreign Ministers of its Member States.

Followed by the submission of the six working papers to the First Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in 2017, at the Second Session of its Preparatory Committee held from April to May in 2018, the NPDI submitted a total of four working papers, including a working paper on transparency, and held a side event on transparency and reporting. It also contributed to concrete discussions by carrying out joint statements and engaging in dialogues with nuclear-weapon States, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries, and the New Agenda Coalition (NAC).

### **D Initiatives Through the United Nations (Resolution on Nuclear Disarmament)**

Since 1994, Japan has submitted a draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly. This draft resolution incorporates issues of the time related to nuclear disarmament, as well as concrete and practical measures toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The 2018 resolution aimed to provide common ground on which the international community can work together toward a world free of nuclear weapons, even in the current severe international security environment. As a result, this resolution was adopted with the wide support of 162 countries at the UN General Assembly in December. 69 countries, including the UK, a nuclear weapon State, co-sponsored the resolution. The resolution received wide support from many countries, including 101 out of 122 countries that had voted in favor of the resolution that established a mandate for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted in July 2017. Japan's draft resolution enjoyed the support of a larger number of states in comparison with other draft resolutions. It has also maintained the wide support of states with divergent views in the international community for more than 20 years.

### **E Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

Japan attaches great importance to promoting the entry into force of the CTBT as a realistic measure of nuclear disarmament where both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States can participate. Starting with a meeting with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Asif in January 2018, Foreign Minister Kono has continued diplomatic efforts to urge countries to sign and ratify the CTBT, whose ratifications are required for its entry-into-force. In addition, Foreign Minister Kono visited Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna in February and exchanged views on the CTBT verification system. Furthermore, at the Second

Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference held from April to May and at the G20 Buenos Aires Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May, Foreign Minister Kono urged North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT. In addition, in order to make the CTBT universal, he clearly emphasized the importance of the CTBT at the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) in May. Foreign Minister Kono met with Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary, Provisional Technical Secretariat, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-ban Treaty Organization in July in Vienna and called for the promotion of entry into force, the universalization and the reinforcement of verification regime of the CTBT, including calls on North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT. In September, in addition to Thailand ratifying the Treaty and Tuvalu signing it, the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (held every other year in years which do not have a meeting for promotion of the CTBT) was held at the UN General Assembly High Level Week. Foreign Minister Kono co-chaired with Australian Foreign Minister Payne and issued a Foreign Ministers' Statement calling for the promotion of entry into force, the universalization and the reinforcement of verification regime of the CTBT, including calls on North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT.

#### **F Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT: Cut-off Treaty)<sup>4</sup>**

The FMCT has great significance from the perspectives of both disarmament and non-proliferation, as it prevents the emergence of new states possessing nuclear-weapons by banning

the production of fissile materials (such as highly-enriched uranium and plutonium) that are used in nuclear weapons, and at the same time, limits the production of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States. However, for many years, an agreement has not been reached on the commencement of negotiations of the treaty in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). In view of this situation, it was decided at the 71st UN General Assembly in December 2016 to establish an FMCT High-Level Experts Preparatory Group. Japan actively participated in the Group's discussions, and through discussions in the 1st meeting (August 2017) and the 2nd meeting (June 2018), a report was adopted that includes possible options for the outline of a future treaty and content to consider in negotiations. The report was submitted to the 73rd UN General Assembly.

#### **G Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education**

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan places great importance of education on disarmament and non-proliferation. Specifically, Japan has been actively engaged in efforts to convey the realities of the devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons to people both within Japan and overseas, through activities such as translating the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors into other languages, invitations for young diplomats from other countries to go to Hiroshima and Nagasaki through the UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament<sup>5</sup>, providing assistance for holding atomic bomb exhibition overseas through its diplomatic missions overseas<sup>6</sup>, and commissioning atomic bomb survivors who have given testimonies

<sup>4</sup> A treaty concept that aims to prevent the increase in the number of nuclear weapons by prohibiting the production of fissile materials (such as enriched uranium and plutonium, etc.) that are used as the materials for the production of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

<sup>5</sup> Implemented since 1983 by the UN to nurture nuclear disarmament experts. Participants of the program are invited to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and efforts are made to promote understanding of the realities of atomic bombing through tours of museums and talks by victims about the experience of atomic bombing, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Opened as a permanent exhibition about atomic bombing in New York (U.S.), Geneva (Switzerland) and Vienna (Austria), in cooperation with Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City. In 2018, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition was held in Caen (France), Ypres (Belgium), and Porto (Portugal).

## Column

## Youth Participation for the CTBT Ministerial Meeting

Jaona Andriamampandry (Madagascar)

Invited by the CTBTO to attend the 2nd Science Diplomacy Symposium, I participated in a presentation contest about the youth vision of the CTBT. Then, I won the contest, and I was invited to make a statement at the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT on September 27, 2018.

In the years between Article XIV Conferences, Foreign Ministers of the "Friends of the CTBT" particularly dedicated to entry into force of the CTBT, meet on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September. The aim of these meetings is to sustain and generate further political momentum for the entry into force of the treaty. To that end,

the ministers adopt and sign Joint Ministerial Statements that are open for adherence by other countries.

The initiative for these meetings was taken by Japan in cooperation with Australia and the Netherlands, who organized the first "Friends of the CTBT" Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2002. Today, the group also includes Canada, Germany and Finland.

Since I became a member of the CTBT Youth Group (CYG), I have witnessed my fellow members make every possible effort to encourage their representatives to support the CTBT. While this might be a tiny step, I believe this tiny step contributes to the global effort in establishing a legally binding CTBT. With the little knowledge I had about the existence of the ministerial meetings, I knew it would be a great opportunity to share the importance of youth involvement with regards to the CTBT. The youth are a source of enthusiasm and inspiration in finding original ways to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

As a scientist and a youth from a developing country, I also knew that this would be THE opportunity to raise the attention of African leaders regarding the importance of the Treaty.



Speech at the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT (author) (Photo credit: CTBTO)

"We are all equally affected, regardless of nationality, religion or economic status" when it comes to the consequences of the nuclear testing. (*Statement by Jaona Andriamampandry at the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT*)

During my presentation at the science diplomacy symposium, I emphasized the importance of education to promote entry into force, because some of the African leaders do not even know about the CTBT. The voices needed to bring the CTBT into force would grow through education.

The meeting was remarkable and my first reaction was that I wanted to do it again. My expectation for Japan and the CTBT is that in future ministerial meetings, more of my fellow members would be granted with the same opportunity as I had. There are several CYG members with different backgrounds and ideas that are worth listening to in order to promote the entry into force.

This initiative gave me the opportunity to be heard by the entire world. This is why it was an unforgettable experience for me and I would like to express my gratitude to Japan and the CTBTO for this wonderful experience.



The Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT on September 27, 2018, New York.



of their atomic bomb experiences as “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons.”

Additionally, with the atomic bomb survivors aging, it is becoming increasingly important to pass on the current understanding of the realities of the use of atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki across the generations and borders. In this regard, since 2013 and until the present, Japan has named more than 300 youths within Japan and overseas as “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons.” In November 2017, the 3rd Forum of Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons was held in Hiroshima, with the aim of revitalizing the activities of the Youth Communicators, and strengthening their networking within Japan and overseas. Youth Communicator alumni from Japan and overseas attended the Forum.

## (2) Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security

### A Japan's Efforts of Non-Proliferation

Japan has been making efforts to strengthen non-proliferation regimes. In particular, as a measure on nuclear non-proliferation, Japan has made various efforts, including supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a member of the IAEA Board of Governors designated by the Board<sup>7</sup>. Japan, for example, enhances the understanding and implementation

capabilities of safeguards of other countries, based on the view that the IAEA safeguards are a core of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. In addition, Japan encourages other countries to conclude the Additional Protocol (AP)<sup>8</sup> to the IAEA safeguards agreements by supporting the IAEA's regional seminars, as well as through other fora. As a part of such efforts, the second training course on the implementation of safeguards hosted by the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) was held for Iran in July 2018. This was held with support through the IAEA's Nuclear Nonproliferation Fund<sup>9</sup>, to which Japan contributes independently.

Furthermore, Japan actively contributes to regional and international efforts to strengthen safeguards through the IAEA's Safeguards Symposium held in Vienna from October to November 2018, and through the Annual Meeting of Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN), which the IAEA participates in.

In addition, Director General of the IAEA Amano, who has been serving as Director General since 2009 (the term of office is from December 2017 to the end of November 2021), has made efforts to deal with issues such as enhancement of efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards, North Korea's nuclear issue and the “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)”<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> 13 countries designated by the IAEA Board of Governors. Japan and other countries such as G7 members with advanced nuclear energy capabilities are designated.

<sup>8</sup> A protocol concluded between a respective country and the IAEA in addition to a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, etc. The conclusion of the Additional Protocol expands the scope of nuclear activity information that should be declared to the IAEA, and gives the IAEA strengthened measures to verify the absence of undeclared nuclear materials and activities. As of December 2018, 134 countries have concluded the Additional Protocol.

<sup>9</sup> A special contribution that Japan makes independently to the IAEA, with the aim of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. The Fund was established in 2001 based on arrangements between Japan and the IAEA.

<sup>10</sup> Sets forth detailed procedures for imposing constraints on Iran's nuclear activities while ensuring that they serve peaceful purposes, and for lifting the imposed sanctions.

<Main measures undertaken by Iran>

● Constraints on enriched uranium-related activities

- Limits the number of centrifuges in operation to 5,060 units
- Upper limit of enriched uranium at 3.67%, and limit on the amount of stored enriched uranium at 300 kg, etc.

● Constraints on Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor, and reprocessing

- Redesign/remodeling of the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor such that it is not able to produce weapon-grade plutonium, and transfer of spent fuel out of the country
- No reprocessing including for research purposes, no construction of reprocessing facilities, etc.



concerning Iran's nuclear issue. Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono have exchanged views on various challenges such as these issues through meetings with Director General Amano.

Japan also actively contributes to export control regimes. They are coordinating frameworks for countries supporting appropriate export controls and capable of supplying respective weapons and related dual-use items and technologies, and they have become an important part of the international non-proliferation regime. Each export control regime, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Zangger Committee on nuclear weapons, the Australia Group (AG) on chemical and biological weapons, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on missiles<sup>11</sup> and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on conventional weapons, establishes a list of dual-use items and technologies which contribute to development of weapons. Participating countries to the regimes implement export control measures on the listed items in accordance with their domestic laws. In addition, the export control regimes also conduct information exchanges on trends in countries of proliferation concern and outreach activities to non-participating countries to the regimes in order to strengthen their export control. Japan actively engages in such international rule-making and application of rules, and makes various contributions. In particular, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna serves as the Point of Contact of the NSG.

In addition, Japan actively participates in the activities of the Proliferation Security Initiative

(PSI)<sup>12</sup>. Japan hosted the Maritime Interdiction Exercise "Pacific Shield 18" in Yokosuka City, off the Boso Peninsula and the Izu Peninsula in July 2018. Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the ROK, Singapore, and the U.S. participated in the exercise with their assets and personnel, and 19 countries from the Indo-Pacific region and other countries sent observers. As a result, each country and related organizations worked to strengthen cooperation with each other and demonstrated the strong will of the international community to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Japan also holds the Asia Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP)<sup>13</sup> and the Asian Export Control Seminar<sup>14</sup> in order to promote understanding of the non-proliferation regimes and strengthen regional efforts mainly in Asian countries. At the 14th ASTOP, held on January 31, 2018, India joined it for the first time, and the meeting had discussions on North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, strengthening export control, the universalization of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG), and the PSI. Furthermore, officials responsible for export control from 33 countries/regions participated in the 25th Asian Export Control seminar, which was held from February 27 to March 1, 2018, to build their capacity through discussions on the role of export control to prevent terrorism and efforts to strengthen export control in Asia.

Furthermore, Japan actively contributes to strengthening the implementation of UN Security

<sup>11</sup> Apart from export control regimes, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG), which includes the principle of exercising restraint in their development and deployment, addresses the issue of ballistic missiles. 139 countries have subscribed to the HCOG.

<sup>12</sup> 105 countries have endorsed the PSI as of December 2018. In the past, in addition to hosting PSI maritime interdiction exercises in 2004, 2007, and 2018, and air interdiction exercises in 2012, Japan also hosted an Operational Experts Group (OEG) meeting in 2010 in Tokyo. Japan has also participated in events hosted by other countries, including rotation exercise in the Asia-Pacific region and the Mid-Level Political Meeting in the U.S. in January 2016. Japan participated in the High-Level Political Meeting of the PSI on its 15th anniversary held in France in May.

<sup>13</sup> A multilateral Director-General-level meeting hosted by Japan to discuss various issues related to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime in Asia among the ten ASEAN Member States, China, India, the ROK, as well as the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and France, which have common interests in Asian regional security. The last ASTOP was held in March 2019.

<sup>14</sup> A seminar hosted by Japan to exchange views and information to strengthen export controls in Asia, with the participation of export control officials from Asian countries and regions. It is organized annually in Tokyo since 1993. The seminar was most recently held in February 2019.



Simple inspection of chemicals by Kanagawa Prefectural Police at the PSI exercise (July 26, Yokosuka)

Council Resolution 1540<sup>15</sup>, which was adopted in 2004 with the aim of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (missiles) to non-state actors. For example, Japan's contributions are used to support efforts to strengthen non-proliferation systems in Asian countries, which contributes to the maintenance and strengthening of international non-proliferation regimes.

### **B Regional Non-proliferation Issues**

North Korea has not carried out the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with a series of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and there has been no essential change in North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities.

A historic U.S.-North Korea Summit was convened in Singapore in June 2018, where U.S. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un agreed on the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in February 2019. It is important

that the international community remains united to support the process between the U.S. and North Korea toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, taking into account the results of the summits.

On the other hand, the IAEA Director General's Report in August pointed out that there were indications of operation at North Korean nuclear facilities and that the continuation and further development of North Korea's nuclear program are a cause for grave concern and these activities are clear violations of UN Security Council resolutions. Also, at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in November, the IAEA Director General pointed out that further activities were observed at Yongbyon in North Korea since August.

Japan has been affirming close cooperation with the IAEA on various levels with regard to the North Korea's nuclear issue. For example, in the meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Director General Amano in July, they exchanged views on the North Korea's situation and Director General Amano gave an explanation about the measures of establishing the stringent verification system in light of the past experiences of the IAEA, and they reaffirmed the cooperation between Japan and the IAEA.

Japan will continue to coordinate closely with related countries, including the U.S. and the ROK, and international organizations such as the IAEA toward the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. In addition, from the viewpoint of the full implementation of sanctions based on the UN Security Council resolutions, Japan will work on capacity building for export control particularly in Asia.

**15** Adopted in April 2004, Resolution 1540 obliges all countries to: (1) refrain from providing support to terrorists and other non-state actors attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction; (2) adopt and enforce laws prohibiting the development of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and other non-state actors; and (3) implement domestic controls (protective measures, border control, export controls, etc.) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The resolution also establishes, under the UN Security Council, the 1540 Committee composed of Security Council members, with a mandate to review and report to the Security Council the status of the implementation of Resolution 1540 by member states.



Meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and IAEA Director General Amano (July 5, Vienna, Austria)

As for Iran, the IAEA has continuously monitored and verified Iran's implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) since January 2016. In May 2018, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the JCPOA, and sanctions against Iran were reapplied in August and November. Under these circumstances, Director General Amano stated at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in November that Iran was implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA and it is essential that Iran continues to fully implement those commitments.

With regard to Syria's implementation of the IAEA safeguards, in order to clarify the facts, it is important for Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA, and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol, as well as to implement it.

### C Nuclear Security

With regards to nuclear security which aims at the prevention of acts of terrorism such as those using nuclear and other radioactive materials, the IAEA, the UN and like-minded countries have strengthened international cooperation on nuclear security through various efforts. They include the Nuclear Security Summit, which was launched by then U.S. President Obama and held four times between 2010 and 2016, and the International conference on Nuclear Security, organized by

the IAEA. Japan actively participates in and contributes to these efforts.

In February 2018, in the presence of Foreign Minister Kono and Director General Amano, the "Practical Arrangements between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency on Cooperation in the Area of Support to the Implementation of Nuclear Security Measures on the Occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games" was signed. The set of arrangements establishes a framework for cooperation, including support by the IAEA experts in events related to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games, information exchanges related to nuclear security issues, and the rental of equipment for detection of radioactive materials.

### (3) Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

#### A Multilateral Efforts

Along with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are considered to be one of the three pillars of the NPT. According to the Treaty, it is the "inalienable right" for any country that meets its obligations to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to develop nuclear research, production and use for peaceful purposes. Against a backdrop of the expansion of international energy demand, many countries use or are planning to use nuclear power<sup>16</sup>.

On the other hand, these nuclear materials, equipment and technologies used for nuclear power generation can be diverted to uses for military purposes, and a nuclear accident in one country may have significant impacts on its neighboring countries. For these reasons, with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is vital to ensure the "3S"<sup>17</sup>: (1) Safeguards; (2) Nuclear Safety (measures to ensure safety

<sup>16</sup> According to the IAEA, as of December 2018, 454 nuclear reactors are in operation worldwide and 54 reactors are under construction (see the IAEA website).

<sup>17</sup> IAEA's Safeguards, typical measures for non-proliferation, and Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security are referred to as the "3S" for short.

**Column****IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology**

Jun Hatazawa, Professor, Department of Nuclear Medicine  
and Tracer Kinetics, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine

I had an opportunity to attend the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held from November 28 to 30 in Vienna, Austria. The conference theme was nuclear science and technology as the foundation of “Atoms for Peace and Development” advocated under the leadership of IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano. Japan co-chaired the meeting with Costa Rica. Panel discussions by experts in the fields of health and medicine, agriculture and food, environment, water resources, and gender equality were conducted and speeches by member country representatives were delivered over three days. The Ministerial Declaration affirmed joint global awareness of the importance of nuclear science and technology and IAEA activities.

I delivered a report on nuclear medicine, the point of overlap between nuclear science and medicine. Radionuclides play an important role in medical examinations for cancer, heart disease, and dementia. In this field, technologies, medical equipment, and methods originating in Japan have spread and taken hold worldwide. Japan also engages in advanced initiatives on patient and medical staff safety management. In the future, nuclear medicine will serve as a bridge between nuclear science and medicine based on the standpoint of further “application of nuclear power to medicine.”

During the conference period, the National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology and the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine presented materials at a booth at the site. With more than 400 government representatives from various countries and conference participants coming to the booth, it was an excellent opportunity to explain Japan’s advanced technologies in medical and health/welfare fields. In particular, there was great interest shown in radioactive therapies, an area in which Japan excels and which alleviate the burden on patients and enable quick recovery after treatment, such as heavy ion therapy, boron neutron capture therapy, and alpha therapy. The top priority in leveraging nuclear science in society is human resources development. The Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine formed a human resources development consortium with the participation of 11 universities and medical institutions nationwide to promote the international proliferation of nuclear medicine and concluded an agreement with the IAEA during the conference. The consortium plans to accept human resources from various countries with the aim of improving the quality of medical care in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other regions and cultivate experts in nuclear medicine. This form of agreement is also the first such attempt for the IAEA, and it is expected to produce great outcomes.

I strongly felt Japan’s influential presence at the conference. It made me very proud to observe the active participation of Director General Amano, who gave the opening speech, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji, who managed the conference as the representative of the co-chair country and delivered a speech, Mr. Mitsuru Kitano, Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, who oversaw the Ministerial Declaration, and Japanese officials working at the IAEA. I intend to make further contributions through my work in medicine, technology development, and education.



to prevent a nuclear accident, etc.); and (3) Nuclear Security. As the country that experienced the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, it is Japan's responsibility to share with the rest of the world its experiences and lessons learned from the accident and to contribute to strengthening global nuclear safety. In this regard, Japan and the IAEA are working in cooperation. The IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre (CBC) was designated in Fukushima in 2013, where workshops were held in July and August in 2018 for Japanese and foreign officials to strengthen their capabilities in the field of emergency preparedness and response.

Decommissioning, contaminated water management, as well as decontamination and environmental remediation have been progressing steadily at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. However, this work continues to be difficult in ways that are unprecedented in the world, and efforts are being made to tackle the tasks through the technology and collective knowledge of the world. Japan has been working closely with the IAEA since the occurrence of the accident. In 2018, Japan hosted an expert mission of the IAEA on marine monitoring (October) and IAEA international peer review mission on the reactor decommissioning (November). In addition, the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) published a report on the levels and impact of radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi accident in 2014, and since 2018 the report has been revised to carry out an assessment based on the latest information.

It is necessary to disseminate appropriate information at an appropriate time in order to deal with the aftermath of the accident and move forward on reconstruction, while gaining support and correct understanding of the international community. From this perspective, Japan periodically releases a comprehensive report through the IAEA, covering matters including the progress of decommissioning, contaminated water



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji celebrating adoption of the Ministerial Declaration as co-chair at the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology (November 27, Vienna, Austria)

management at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, results of the monitoring of air dose rate and radioactivity concentration in the sea water, and food safety. Briefing sessions are held for diplomatic corps, and information is also provided through diplomatic missions overseas.

Nuclear energy is applied not only to the field of power generation, but also to areas including human health, food and agriculture, environment, and industrial applications. Promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in such non-power applications, and contributing to development issues, are becoming increasingly important as developing countries make up the majority of NPT member states. As Director General Amano upholds "Atoms for Peace and Development," the IAEA also contributes to technical cooperation for developing countries and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Japan has been providing active support, to the IAEA's activities, through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) and other means. At the NPT Review Conference held in April 2015, Japan announced that it would be contributing a total of 25 million US dollars over the five years to the PUI. In 2018, Japan provided support through the PUI for projects, including on measures against infectious diseases, strengthening cancer treatment capacity, and water resource management in developing countries.

In November 2018, the first IAEA Ministerial

Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology was held with the objective of promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs and the application of nuclear science and technology. The Ministerial Declaration was adopted with the attendance of Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji, who co-chaired with Costa Rica.

### **B Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement**

Bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements are concluded to secure a legal assurance from the recipient country, when transferring nuclear-related materials and equipment such as nuclear reactors to that country, that the transferred items will be used only for peaceful purposes. The agreements especially aim to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ensure non-proliferation.

Moreover, as Japan attaches importance to ensuring the “3S,” recent nuclear agreements between Japan and other countries set out provisions regarding nuclear safety and affirm mutual compliance with international treaties on nuclear safety, while facilitating the promotion of cooperation in the field of nuclear safety under the agreements.

Numerous countries continue to express that they have high expectations for Japan’s nuclear technology even after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. While taking into account the situation and intentions of the partner countries desiring to cooperate with Japan in this field, Japan can continue to provide nuclear-related materials, equipment, and technology with the highest safety standards. Furthermore, as bilateral nuclear cooperation, Japan is called upon to share with other countries its experience and lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident and to continue cooperating with other countries on improving nuclear safety. When considering whether or not to establish a nuclear cooperation agreement framework with a foreign country,

Japan considers the overall situation in each individual case, taking into account such factors as non-proliferation, nuclear energy policy in that country, the country’s trust in and expectations for Japan, and the bilateral relationship between the two countries. As of the end of 2018, Japan has concluded nuclear cooperation agreements with Canada, Australia, China, the U.S., France, the UK, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), Kazakhstan, the ROK, Vietnam, Jordan, Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and India.

## **(4) Biological and Chemical Weapons**

### **A Biological Weapons**

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)<sup>18</sup> is the only multilateral legal framework imposing a comprehensive ban on the development, production, and possession of biological weapons. However, the question of how to reinforce the convention is a challenge, as there is neither a provision regarding the means of verifying compliance with the BWC nor an implementing organization for the Convention.

Since 2006, decisions were made to establish the Implementation Support Unit (fulfilling the functions of a secretariat), and to hold inter-sessional meetings twice a year in between the Review Conference held every five years; progress has been made in initiatives toward strengthening the implementation of the BWC.

It has been agreed to discuss the five topics of international cooperation, review of developments in the field of science and technology, national implementation, assistance, response and preparedness support, and institutional strengthening of the Convention in the inter-sessional meetings until the 9th Review Conference, scheduled to be held in 2021.

<sup>18</sup> Enacted in March 1975. The contracting states number 182 (as of December 2018)



**B Chemical Weapons**

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)<sup>19</sup> imposes a comprehensive ban on the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and stipulates that all existing chemical weapons must be destroyed. Compliance is ensured through the verification system (declaration and inspection) and hence this Convention is a groundbreaking international agreement on the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The implementing body of the CWC is the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is based in the Hague, the Netherlands. Along with the UN, the OPCW has played a key role in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. Its extensive efforts toward the realization of a world free of chemical weapons were highly appraised, and the organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. Japan has provided financial support for OPCW activities concerning the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria. In addition, Japan, which has a highly developed chemicals industry and numerous chemicals factories, also accepts many OPCW inspections. Apart from these, Japan cooperates actively with the OPCW in concrete ways, such as measures to increase the number of member States, and strengthening national implementation measures by States Parties with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the Convention.

Moreover, under the CWC, Japan aims to complete, as soon as possible, the destruction of chemical weapons of the former Japanese Army abandoned in territory of China by working in cooperation with China.

**(5) Conventional Weapons****A Cluster Munitions<sup>20</sup>**

Japan takes the humanitarian consequences brought about by cluster munitions very seriously. Therefore, in addition to taking steps to address this issue by victim assistance and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance<sup>21</sup>, Japan continues its efforts to increase the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)<sup>22</sup>.

**B Anti-personnel Mines**

Year of 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty)<sup>23</sup> has entered into force. To date, Japan has continued to promote comprehensive measures with a focus on the effective prohibition of anti-personnel mines and strengthening of support for mine-affected countries. As well as calling on countries in the Asia-Pacific region to ratify or accede to the Convention, Japan has, since 1998, provided support worth over 71 billion Japanese yen to 51 countries and regions to assist them in dealing with the consequences of land mines (for example, landmine clearance and victim assistance).

In November 2018, the 17th Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty was held in Geneva. At this meeting, Japan looked back on its efforts to universalize the Ottawa Treaty in Japan to date, as well as its initiatives and achievements in supporting mine action. It also expressed

<sup>19</sup> Enacted in April 1997. The contracting states number 193 (as of December 2017)

<sup>20</sup> Generally speaking, it refers to a bomb or shell which enables numerous submunitions to be spread over a wide area by opening in the air a large container, which holds those submunitions. It is said that there is high possibility that many of them do not explode on impact, which creates problem of accidental killing or injury of civilian population.

<sup>21</sup> See the White Paper on Development Cooperation for specific efforts in international cooperation regarding cluster munition and anti-personnel mine.

<sup>22</sup> Enacted in August 2010, it prohibits the use, possession, or production of cluster munitions, while obliging the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, and the clearance of cluster munitions in contaminated areas. As of November 2018, the number of contracting states and regions is 104, including Japan.

<sup>23</sup> While banning the use and production of anti-personnel mines, the Convention, which came into force in March 1999, obliges the destruction of stockpiled mines and clearance of buried mines. As of November 2018, the number of contracting states and regions is 164, including Japan.



Japan's continuous resolve to play a positive role with the aim of realizing a mine-free world.

### **C The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)<sup>24</sup>**

The ATT, which seeks to establish common standards to regulate international trade in conventional arms and prevent illicit trade in them, came into force on December 24, 2014. As one of the original co-authors of the UN General Assembly Resolution that initiated a consideration of the Treaty, Japan has taken the lead in discussions and negotiations in the UN, and contributed actively to discussions in Conference of States Parties after the Treaty entered into force. In August 2018, Japan hosted the 4th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty as the first chair country elected from the Asia-Pacific region.

### **D Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)<sup>25</sup>**

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) prohibits or restricts the use of conventional weapons that are deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects and comprises a framework Convention that sets forth the procedural and other matters, as well as five annexed Protocols that regulate the individual conventional arms, etc. The framework Convention came into force in 1983. Japan has ratified the framework Convention and the annexed Protocols I to IV, including the amended Protocol II. Against a background of concerns in the international community about the rapidly advancing military applications of science and technology, meetings of Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) on the CCW framework have been held.

### **E Small Arms and Light Weapons**

Described as “weapons of mass destruction” in

terms of the carnage they cause, small arms and light weapons continue to proliferate due to the ease of obtaining and operating them, and are one of the causes behind the drawing out and escalation of conflict, as well as hindrance to the restoration of public security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Since 1995, Japan has been making an annual submission to the UN General Assembly of a resolution on small arms and light weapons. Japan supports various projects to tackle small arms and light weapons across the globe, including weapons collection and disposal programs and training courses.

## **5 Japan's Efforts at the United Nations (UN)**

### **(1) Japan-UN Relationship**

The UN is an international organization with a universal character, in which almost all the countries in the world hold membership (193 countries as of December 2018). With a high level of expertise, it addresses various challenges that the international community faces in diverse areas, including conflict resolution and peacebuilding, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, development, human rights, environment and climate change, and disaster risk reduction.

Today, the international community is confronted by a wide range of challenges across borders including conflicts, terrorism, refugees, poverty, climate change, and infectious diseases, and the UN has to fulfill an expanding role. Under the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, Japan is further strengthening cooperation through the UN and is taking an even more proactive approach toward tackling these issues as well as achieving diplomatic targets which cannot be

<sup>24</sup> As of November 2018, the number of contracting states and regions to Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is 99. Japan signed the Treaty on the day that it was released for signing, and in May 2014 became a contracting state.

<sup>25</sup> As of November 2018, 125 countries and regions have ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).



UN Headquarters (Photo: UN Photo/ Manuel Elias)



Prime Minister Abe attending the UN General Assembly (September 25, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

realized by efforts of one country alone. Japan has also served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 11 times, the most frequent among the Member States, fulfilling a key role in the maintenance of peace and security in the international community. Japan will also continue to be proactively engaged in the UN reform, including the reform of the Security Council, so that the UN can cope more effectively with the various issues faced by the international community.

In September, Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono attended the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly.

Prime Minister Abe delivered a speech at the General Debate for six years in a row. In this speech, he declared Japan's resolve to focus on preserving and enhancing the free trade system, and clearing away the post-war structures in Northeast Asia. Furthermore, he asserted the importance of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and stated his conviction that the Japanese people would serve as powerful leaders with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), bearing in mind the international conferences to be held in Japan in 2019 (G20 and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD 7)).

In addition, Prime Minister Abe attended a high-level meeting entitled "A Call to Invest: Investing in Youth Jobs in Africa." There, he touched on the fact that since the launch of TICAD in 1993, Japan has supported Africa's self-reliant development based on the principals of ownership (self-help efforts) on the part of African countries and partnerships (coordination) with the international community. In relation to the job creation of young Africans, he introduced Japan's initiatives related to promoting human resource development and private investment, including the ABE Initiative<sup>26</sup>, job training support, the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum<sup>27</sup>, and more. He went on to add that, Japan will continually invest for the future of Africa under public-private partnership with a view toward TICAD 7 to be held in Yokohama in August 2019.

On the margins of the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe held Summit Meetings with UN Secretary-General Guterres, the U.S., Turkey, the ROK, and Iran and met with leaders of Panama and the UK to engage in lively exchanges of opinions over various challenges facing the

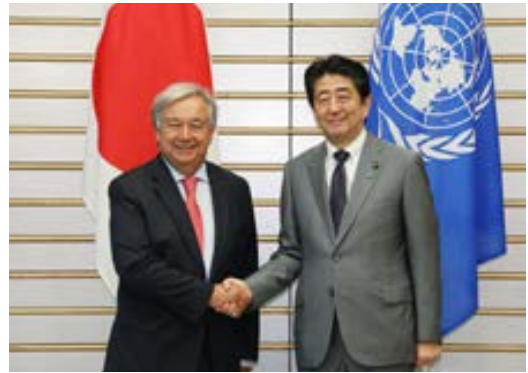
<sup>26</sup> This aims to select young, outstanding African human resources who will serve as bearers for the future of business between Japan and Africa, offer them the opportunity to study abroad at Japanese universities and to intern at Japanese companies, and foster sophisticated industrial human resources who can serve as guides to Japanese companies entering African markets

<sup>27</sup> Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in 2016. It is a forum where officials from the private and public sectors in Japan and Africa take part and exchange opinions with the goal of promoting cooperation between private companies in Japan and Africa and the business activities of Japanese companies in Africa.

international arena, such as the issue of North Korea, as well as bilateral relationships and more.

In the meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres, the two reached a shared recognition concerning the importance of achieving UN reform, including the reform of the UN Security Council. In addition, they also affirmed the importance of having the international community continue to ensure the complete and total implementation of UN Security Council resolutions aimed at achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. In addition, Prime Minister Abe once again sought understanding and cooperation with respect to the early resolution of the abductions issue, to which UN Secretary-General Guterres expressed his support. Foreign Minister Kono either hosted or co-chaired the Sixth GUAM-Japan Ministerial Meeting (GUAM consists of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova), the Sixth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference, the Japan-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting, the High-Level Side Event on Promoting Quality Infrastructure, the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Ministerial Meeting on United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In addition, he also attended the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 on United Nations Security Council Reform, and other meetings totaling 18 multilateral meetings. He also held 14 Foreign Minister's Meetings, including Japan-India and Japan-China, taking the opportunity of the UN General Assembly to strengthen mutual trust with his counterparts from other countries.

These examples show how Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono took full advantage of the opportunity of the UN General Assembly, where important leaders gathered from around the world, to demonstrate Japan's leadership when it comes to resolving the various challenges confronting the international community. In addition, they also vigorously engaged in bilateral



Prime Minister Abe shaking hands with UN Secretary-General Guterres (August 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

talks with leaders from different countries in aiming to strengthen bilateral relations, and assertively conveyed Japan's policies and positions to the international community.

In August, UN Secretary-General Guterres visited Japan for the second time after assuming office as the Secretary-General in January 2017, where he became the first UN Secretary-General to attend the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony at Peace Park. In the meeting with Prime Minister Abe held prior to this, the two held detailed exchange of view concerning North Korea, UN reform, disarmament and nonproliferation as well as global issues, and they concurred to continue to work closely together. Specifically, with regard to the issue of North Korea, the two reached a shared recognition regarding the need to adhere to the complete and total implementation by the international community of measures based on UNSC resolutions designed to elicit specific behaviors on the part of North Korea. As for disarmament and nonproliferation, Prime Minister Abe declared that Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, would continue to act as an intermediary between those states with nuclear weapons and those without them in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, and concurred with UN Secretary-General Guterres over continuing to cooperate with the UN on this issue. Moreover, Prime Minister Abe raised the urgent need to promote

the reform of the UN Security Council in parallel with UN reform, and expressed his hope that UN Secretary-General Guterres would show strong initiative in this regard. Foreign Minister Kono held a breakfast meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres in Nagasaki, where the two exchanged opinions over issues such as disarmament and nonproliferation, the issue of North Korea, and UN reform. In addition, UN Secretary-General Guterres met with survivors of the atomic bombing, and toured both the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

Moreover, at the end of August, President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly Espinosa Garcés visited Japan right before assuming office of the president of the UN General Assembly in September, where she paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe. She also exchanged a wide range of opinions with Foreign Minister Kono regarding UN Security Council reform, the North Korea situation, the SDGs, gender, and other challenges at the global level.

## (2) United Nations Security Council and its reform

### A United Nations Security Council

The UN Security Council holds the primary responsibility within the UN for maintaining international peace and security. Its activities, including Peacekeeping Operations based on UN Security Council resolutions, are diversifying and the Council's role is expanding year by year, encompassing the efforts to address new threats such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

Japan served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 11th time from January 2016 to the end of December 2017, having served more frequently than any other UN Member State, and contributed proactively to discussions on topics such as country-specific situations and peacebuilding. During its term

on the Council, which was its 11th such term, Japan made every effort to resolve North Korea's nuclear and missile issues; those efforts included contributions to drafting and the adoption of six UN Security Council resolutions in response to North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches and three nuclear tests conducted in January and September 2016, and September 2017. At a UN Security Council Briefing on the denuclearization of North Korea held as part of High-level Week of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, Japan led discussions related to maintaining international peace and security, such as by calling for solidarity among member nations with a view toward achieving the complete denuclearization of North Korea.

### B Reform of the United Nations Security Council

For more than 70 years since the establishment of the UN, while the structure of the international community has changed significantly and despite the UN's functions having grown increasingly diverse in this day and age, the composition of the UN Security Council has basically remained unchanged still to this today. There is broad recognition of the necessity of promptly reforming the UN Security Council in a way that reflects the reality of the international community in order to improve its legitimacy, effectiveness, representativeness, and transparency.

Japan has contributed proactively to the international community in areas such as disarmament and non-proliferation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and "human security," among others. To play an even more proactive role toward the realization of world peace and security through the UN, Japan has been making efforts to convince other countries in pursuit of the early realization of the UN Security Council reform, with the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats, and Japan's admission as a permanent member.

### **C Recent activities regarding the UN Security Council reform**

Since 2009, in the UN General Assembly, Member States have been engaging in the Inter-governmental Negotiations on the UN Security Council reform. At the Inter-governmental Negotiations during the 72nd session of the General Assembly (held a total of five times from February to June 2018), the Co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (UN Permanent Representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Georgia) worked to revise the document from the previous session based on the opinions of each country and group. The decision to pass on the existing documents, which include the document compiled at the 72nd session, to the 73rd session (from September 2018 to September 2019) was adopted with a consensus at the UN General Assembly in July 2018.

In addition, President of the UN General Assembly Espinosa Garcés reappointed the UN Permanent Representative from the United Arab Emirates to continue serving as a Co-Chair of the Inter-governmental Negotiations as a carryover from the 72nd session, while also appointing the UN Permanent Representative from Luxembourg to serve as a new Co-Chair of the Inter-governmental Negotiations. In addition, Japan also places great importance on strengthening its initiatives as a member of the G4 (Japan, India, Germany, and Brazil), a group that cooperates on promoting the UN Security Council reform. Foreign Minister Kono attended the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries that was held along with the UN General Assembly High-level Week in September. At the Meeting, the Ministers agreed to enhance initiatives designed to launch text-based negotiations at the Inter-governmental Negotiations during the current session, and on this point, also to support moves to reflect the African shared position into the text-based negotiations. They also agreed to instruct those at the working level from each country to perform examinations related to future initiatives



Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) on the United Nations Security Council Reform (September 25, New York, U.S.)



UN Security Council Ministerial-Level Meeting on the denuclearization of North Korea (September 27, New York, U.S.)

geared toward advancing reform of the UN Security Council.

Japan will continue to engage proactively in the process for realizing the UN Security Council reform, in close cooperation with reform-oriented countries.

### **(3) Administrative and Budgetary Issues of the United Nations**

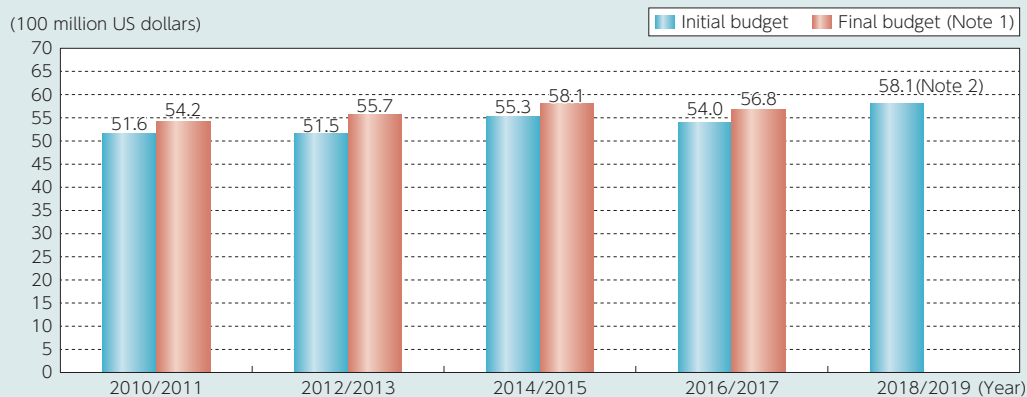
#### **A Budget of the United Nations**

The UN budget is mainly composed of the regular budget which is a biennial budget for the period from January to December of the next year, and the peacekeeping budget which is an annual budget for the period from July to the following June.

With regard to the regular budget, a revised budget for the biennium 2018-2019 amounting



## Changes in UN biennial regular budgets



(Note 1) A "final budget" includes an additional demand generated in the course of a biennial budget or an additional budget adjusted for inflation, etc.

(Note 2) Revised budget approved at the end of 2018

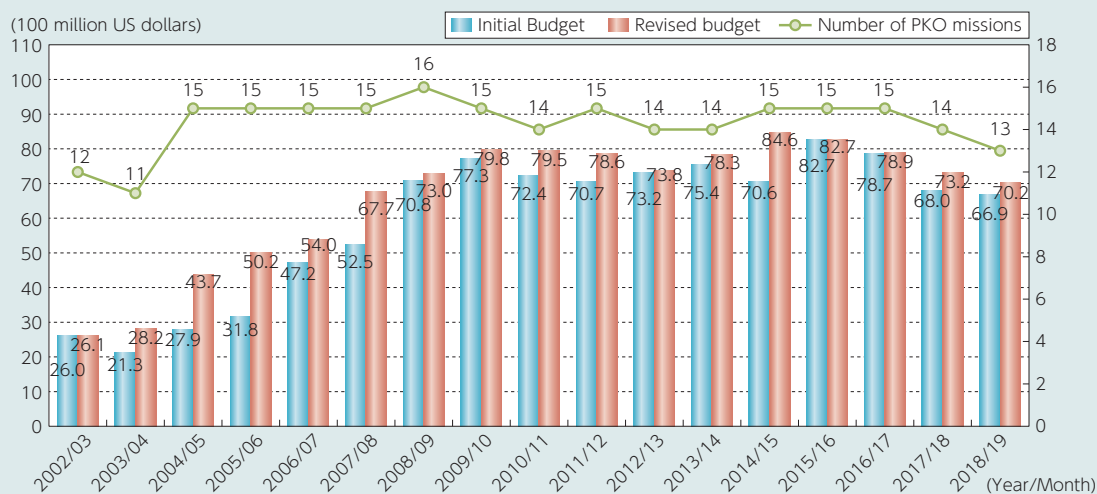
Source: UN documents

## The scale of assessments for the UN Regular Budget by major Member States

Ranking*	Country	2016-2018	2019-2021	Increase/decrease by points
1	U.S.	22.000%	22.000%	± 0
2	China	7.921%	12.005%	+ 4.084
3	Japan	9.680%	8.564%	- 1.116
4	Germany	6.389%	6.090%	- 0.299
5	UK	4.463%	4.567%	+ 0.104
6	France	4.859%	4.427%	- 0.432
7	Italy	3.748%	3.307%	- 0.441
8	Brazil	3.823%	2.948%	- 0.875
9	Canada	2.921%	2.734%	- 0.187
10	Russia	3.088%	2.405%	- 0.683

\*The numbers refer to the rank for 2019-2021.

## Changes in the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Budget and the number of PKO missions (2003-2019)



Source: UN documents



**The scale of assessments for the UN Peacekeeping Budget by major Member States**

Ranking*	Country	2018	2019	2020-2021
1	U.S.	28.4344%	27.8912%	27.8908%
2	China	10.2377%	15.2197%	15.2195%
3	Japan	9.6800%	8.5640%	
4	Germany	6.3890%	6.0900%	
5	UK	5.7863%	5.7900%	5.7899%
6	France	6.2801%	5.6125%	5.6124%
7	Italy	3.7480%	3.3070%	
8	Russia	3.9912%	3.0490%	3.0490%
9	Canada	2.9210%	2.7340%	
10	ROK	2.0390%	2.2670%	

\*The numbers refer to the rank for 2019-2021.

to approximately 5.8 billion US dollars was approved in December 2018 at the UN General Assembly (an increase of approximately 7.7% from the initial budget for the biennium 2018-2019). The budget for peacekeeping operations for the 2018-2019 period was approved in July 2018 (approximately 7.02 billion US dollars in total, a decrease of approximately 4% from the previous period).

Furthermore, the scale of assessments, which is to be reviewed every three years, was negotiated in 2018. As the current methodology was maintained, Japan's scale of assessments for the period from 2019 to 2021 decreased to 8.564% (a 1.116-point decrease from the scale 9.680% for 2016-2018), which was the largest decrease among all Member States. In contrast, as China's scale rose substantially, Japan's scale of assessment for the regular budget became the third largest after the U.S. and China. As for the scale of assessment for the UN peacekeeping budget, Japan remained the third largest after the U.S. and China.

**B Japan's Contribution**

The UN budget, which supports the activities of the organization, is composed of assessed contributions duly paid by Member States and voluntary contributions paid in accordance with the policy need of Member States. With regard

to the assessed contributions, Japan contributed approximately 235.3 million US dollars to the UN regular budget for 2018, ranking second after the U.S. Its contribution to peacekeeping operations for 2018 was approximately 478.78 million US dollars, coming third after the U.S. and China. As a major financial contributor, Japan has been encouraging the UN to make more efficient and effective use of its resources.

UN Secretary-General Guterres places priority on reforming the management of the UN (management and administration), along with addressing issues related to peace and development, and is engaged in efforts to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions of the Secretariat. Japan, while supporting the objectives of reform, is urging the UN to advance its reform without additional financial burdens to Member States. Based on the General Assembly resolution adopted at the end of December 2017 on the policies for management reform, draft proposals on the organization and budget to implement reform were discussed in May 2018, and in January 2019 it was decided that a new organizational structure would be launched. It is expected that, under the new structure of the secretariat, the efficiency of the financial, budgetary, and human resource management of the UN will be strengthened.

## 6 The Rule of Law in the International Community

The rule of law is the concept that recognizes the superiority of the law over all forms of power; it is the basis of the international order that consists of friendly and equitable relations between states, as well as an essential cornerstone of a fair and just society within a country. The rule of law is also an important factor in ensuring the peaceful settlement of disputes between states and in promoting “good governance” in each state. Based on this view, Japan promotes the bilateral and multilateral rule-making and proper implementation of these rules in various fields, such as security, economic and social affairs, and criminal justice. Furthermore, in order to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and the preservation of international legal order, Japan actively cooperates with international judicial organizations such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), and the International Criminal Court (ICC), to strengthen their functions via contributions both in terms of human and financial resources. In addition, Japan has been working to enhance the rule of law in the international community including Asian countries via provision of legal technical assistance, participation in international conferences, exchanges of views with various countries, and hosting of events on international law.

### (1) Japan's Diplomacy Strengthening the Rule of Law

Strengthening the rule of law is one of the pillars of Japan's foreign policy. Japan opposes unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, and strives to maintain its territorial integrity, secure its maritime and economic

interests, and protect its citizens. Examples of Japan's efforts in this regard include the consistent affirmation of the preservation and enhancement of a free and open international order based on the rule of law at various fora, including international conferences such as the UN General Assembly and meetings with relevant states, to promote the rule of law in the international community. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit (Canada) held in June and the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings (Singapore) in November, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the rules-based order in the maritime domain based on the principles of international law, including as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to the peaceful settlement of disputes including arbitration. From the perspective of promoting the rule of law in the international community, Japan has been contributing to the peaceful settlement of inter-state disputes based on international law, formation and development of a new international legal order, and the development of legal systems and human resources in various countries.

### A Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

In order to encourage peaceful settlement of disputes via international judicial institutions while striving to comply faithfully with international law, Japan accepts<sup>28</sup> the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and constructively contributes toward the establishment of the rule of law in the international community, via cooperation in terms of human and financial resources to numerous international courts. For example, Japan is the biggest financial contributor to ITLOS, the ICC, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). In terms of human resources, there have been a number of Japanese judges serving on international judicial bodies, such as Judge Shunji

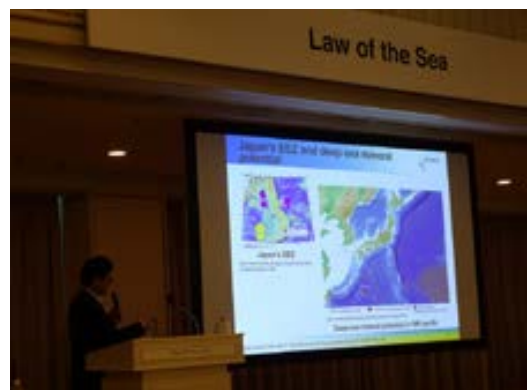
<sup>28</sup> A declaration that states parties to the Statute of the ICJ recognize the jurisdiction of the ICJ as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other state accepting the same obligation, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2 of its Statute. Only 73 countries, including Japan, have deposited such declaration to date.

Yanai to ITLOS (incumbent since 2005, President of ITLOS from October 2011 to September 2014) and Judge Kuniko Ozaki to the ICC (incumbent since 2010, Second Vice-President of the Court from March 2015 to March 2018) along with Judge Tomoko Akane (appointed in December 2017, incumbent since March 2018). With regard to the ICJ, following the retirement of Judge Hisashi Owada (who served from February 2003 until June 2018, including a term as President of the ICJ from March 2009 until June 2012), Japanese candidate Yuji Iwasawa, Professor of the University of Tokyo, was elected at the by-election of an ICJ judge in June 2018. He thus became the fourth Japanese ICJ judge to assume its duties. Through these contributions, Japan strives to enhance the effectiveness and universality of international courts and tribunals. To further strengthen the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in dealing with international litigations, efforts are ongoing to enhance expertise on international judicial proceedings as well as to build up strengthened networks with lawyers in and outside Japan, especially by the International Judicial Proceedings Division established in the International Legal Affairs Bureau in April 2015.

## **B International Rule-making**

International rule-making to respond to the issues the global community faces is one of the important efforts to strengthen the rule of law. In developing international rules, Japan has participated actively in negotiations in specific fields and has taken initiatives in rule-making processes from the planning phase, in order to reflect Japan's own principles and views in cross-sectoral initiatives in the UN, etc., and to realize the development of international laws. Specifically, Japan has been actively involved in the rule-making processes within various international frameworks including the codification work in the field of public international law at the International Law Commission (ILC) and the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the

preparation of conventions and model laws in the field of private international law at forums such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). In the ILC, Dr. Shinya Murase, Professor Emeritus of Sophia University, serves as a Special Rapporteur on the topic of "Protection of the Atmosphere," contributing greatly to the development of international law through the deliberation of draft texts of guidelines and other documentation. Japan also dispatches government representatives to various meetings of the HCCH, UNCITRAL, and UNIDROIT, taking an active lead in discussions. In addition, Professor Hideki Kanda from Gakushuin University was re-elected at the governing council member election in December at UNIDROIT. Furthermore, at the election of member states of UNCITRAL held that same month, Japan was once again elected as a member state since the establishment of the commission. In addition to this, Japan also cooperates with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), the only intergovernmental body in the Asian-African regions on the international law, by providing human and financial resources. In particular, Japan hosted the 57th Annual Session of AALCO in Tokyo in October 2018, and representatives from Japan actively led the discussion on important topics such as peaceful



Side Event of the Annual Session of the AALCO (October 10, Tokyo Prince Hotel)

## Column

## Organizing the AALCO's 57th Annual Session in Tokyo, Japan

Prof. Dr. Kennedy Gastorn  
Secretary General  
Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

From October 8 to 12, 2018, I have had the honour to organize the 57th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in Tokyo, Japan. It was my second Annual Session to organize in my capacity as Secretary General of AALCO, while it was the fifth time that AALCO's Annual Session was hosted by Japan, following the last one in 1994.

AALCO started in 1956 to serve as an advisory body to Member States in the field of international law and as a forum for Asian-African cooperation in legal matters of common concern. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, and being a sole intergovernmental organization in international law that covers both Asia and Africa, its activities have been gradually broadened to keep pace with the needs and requirements of its Member States. The membership of the Organization has grown from a mere seven countries to the current 47, and nowadays the role of the Organization has become increasingly important, especially in promoting the rule of law in these two regions. As one of the founding members of AALCO, Japan has supported the activities of the Organization since its creation. The Annual Session was highly attended by almost 200 representatives from 38 out of 47 current Member States, 6 Non-Member States and 6 International Organizations, as well as 4 AALCO Regional Commercial Arbitration Centres.



The Chief Guests of the Annual Session, H.E. Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Takashi Yamashita, Minister of Justice of Japan, recalled the contributions of AALCO towards the progressive development of international law and highlighted Japan's proactive engagement in the Organization since its establishment. Also, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, received a courtesy call from high-level delegations participating in the Annual Session.

For this Annual Session, Japan, in coordination with the AALCO Secretariat, carefully provided a platform for Member States to deliberate on important topics of international law such as the law of the sea, peaceful settlement of international disputes, international trade and investment law, selected items on the agenda of the International Law Commission, international law in cyberspace and international legal issues related to the question of Palestine. In addition, a number of side events were hosted by the Government of Japan on such topics as the Law of the Sea and the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) as well as the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 (hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Japan).

The deliberations on the substantive agenda items were focused and rich in content, and included insights and experiences shared by Member States. It is noteworthy that a new agenda item of "Peaceful Settlement of Disputes" was introduced for the first time to the agenda of an Annual Session of AALCO at the proposal of Japan. The inclusion of this new topic was highly appreciated in light of the current international trend and will provide a new thrust to the Organization. The Session was also path breaking as it gave the mandate to the Secretary-General, by virtue of recommendations adopted by Member States, to implement the Organization's annual work plan with greater flexibility so that it can better meet the evolving needs of the Member States.

Also noteworthy is that, as a new initiative for this Annual Session, prominent scholars and practitioners in the field of international law were invited as expert speakers to facilitate deliberations. The speakers included, among others, Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs.

Amongst other notable developments, AALCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Sea Bed Authority (ISA). Also, the Government of Japan announced that it would launch a new programme starting next year to support the capacity building of AALCO Member States in the area of international law. I welcome these developments as they directly respond to the capacity building needs of the Member States.

This year's Annual Session was a remarkable one in that it introduced many aforementioned initiatives to engage the Member States in active discussions on international legal issues of great relevance to them. I believe this has been an important milestone in the path of AALCO realizing its full potential as a sole advisory body in international law in Asia and Africa, and look forward to supporting the Member States.

settlement of disputes and the law of the sea from the perspective of international law experts.

### **C Development of Domestic Legislation and Other Matters**

Japan not only takes steps to appropriately improve its own national laws so as to comply with international law, but also actively supports the development of legal systems especially in Asian countries, and undertakes international cooperation related to the rule of law in order to further develop the rule of law. For example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Society of International Law, supported by the Nippon Foundation, co-organize the “Asia Cup,” an international law moot court competition for students from Asia with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes, nurturing future generations in the field of international law, and strengthening exchange and communication among them. The occasion of its 20th session in 2018 recorded participation from 65 universities in 19 countries. Here, university students from 15 countries (Japan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, the ROK, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) took part in oral proceedings round held in Tokyo. They competed in written and oral pleadings in English on the themes of fictional international disputes on exercising the right of self-defense versus non-nation-state actors and the law of the sea.



International law moot court competition, “2018 Asia Cup”  
(August, Tokyo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

### **(2) Initiatives in the Maritime Sector**

For Japan, as a maritime nation, maintaining and strengthening maritime order based on the rule of law is an issue of the utmost importance. In his keynote address at the 13th Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) in May 2014, Prime Minister Abe proposed the “Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea” ((1) making and clarifying claims based on international law; (2) not using force or coercion in trying to drive their claims; and (3) seeking to settle disputes by peaceful means). Ever since then, Japan has consistently advocated these principles. For example, at the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) in November 2018, Prime Minister Abe emphasized that a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law forms the cornerstone for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

UNCLOS serves as a foundation for the rule

of law in the seas. This Convention has been concluded by 167 countries, including Japan (as well as some regions not officially recognized as nations by Japan), and the EU. The Convention comprehensively provides principles governing the sea, including the freedom of navigation and overflight over the high seas. It also stipulates the rights and obligations under international law on the development of marine resources and so on. In particular, the provisions of this Convention related to areas such as territorial waters and exclusive economic zones are widely accepted as established customary international law. In addition, the recognition that activities conducted on the seas ought to be carried out according to the provisions of this convention is widely shared among the international community. As this indicates, the Convention provides a comprehensive foundation for the stability and development of maritime order.

Under UNCLOS, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) was established in 1996 in Hamburg, Germany for the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and maintenance and development of the legal order at sea. The ITLOS deals with a wide range of cases, including the delimitation of maritime boundaries in recent years in particular, and the importance of the Tribunal has been growing. Japan attaches importance to the role played by the ITLOS, and since its establishment it has dispatched two Japanese judges successively to the Tribunal and has also been the largest financial contributor.

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) established pursuant to UNCLOS also plays an important role in the operation of the system for defining the outer limits of the continental shelf. Since the establishment of the CLCS, Japan has continued to cooperate with the Commission in terms of both human and financial resources, such as by continuously sending members (Japan's current member of the Commission is Professor Toshitsugu Yamazaki from the University of Tokyo). Another recent

development was the deliberation for formulating fair rules on exploitation started in 2018 under the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which was also established pursuant to UNCLOS for the primary purpose of managing deep sea-bed mineral resources. Japan actively takes part in negotiations in order to reflect its standpoint in these rules. It has also traditionally provided support for capacity building to developing countries with deep sea-bed related technologies, and has been appreciated as a leading country in rule-making in deep sea-bed. Japan organized “Forefront of deep sea-bed resources development technology” as a side event to the AALCO Annual Meeting in October 2018. Prominent scholars of international law and practitioners were invited from overseas to the event, and technologies for exploration of the deep sea-bed resources or environmental impact assessments developed by Japan were exhibited to other member states.

Moreover, the decision was made to convene an intergovernmental conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), which was adopted via resolution 72/249 of the UN General Assembly in December 2017. The first meeting of the IGC was held in September 2018. The Government of Japan actively takes part in discussions in order to ensure that Japan's perspective is reflected in a new international agreement by putting its emphasis on striking a balance between the dual aspects of conservation and sustainable use of the BBNJ.

### (3) Initiatives in the Political and Security Fields

Acquisition and Cross-Serving Agreements (ACSA), which set out the settlement procedures and other matters on the mutual provision of supplies and services between the JSDF and foreign armed forces, were signed with Canada and France. Furthermore, in order to develop a



foundation for promoting international cooperation in the field of security, Japan is advancing efforts to negotiate agreements concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technologies, which set out provisions on the handling of defense equipment and technologies to be transferred, as well as agreements on measures for the protection of information that will form the basis for the sharing of classified information on security with the relevant countries. Japan has also concluded the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the EU and EU member states to serve as the legal foundation for future cooperation in political and security fields among others. Japan is also continuing negotiations toward the conclusion of a peace treaty with Russia, which is a key issue.

#### **(4) Initiatives in the Fields of the Economy and Society**

The conclusion and implementation of international agreements that bring legal discipline to cooperative relationships with other countries in the economic sphere is becoming increasingly important in order to promote the liberalization of trade and investment, as well as people-to-people exchanges, and to strengthen the foundations for the overseas activities of Japanese citizens and companies. The agreements that Japan signed or concluded with various countries and regions in 2018 include tax conventions, investment treaties, and social security agreements. Japan also worked on negotiations with the Asia-Pacific region and Europe for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), actively advancing negotiations on broader regional economic partnership such as the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) among Japan, China, and the ROK, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP Agreement) was signed by 11 countries in November, and entered into force in December. Moreover, the

Japan-EU EPA was signed in July, and following an exchange of diplomatic notes in December, the agreement entered into force in February 2019.

Furthermore, with a view to protecting and enhancing the livelihoods and activities of Japanese citizens and companies, Japan is working on the proper implementation of existing international agreements as well as utilizing the dispute settlement system of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

In social fields such as human rights, environment, fisheries, maritime affairs, aviation, labor and social security, which are closely linked with the daily lives of the people, Japan actively participates in negotiations of international agreements to ensure that Japan's positions are reflected and also concludes such agreements. For example, in the fisheries field, Japan signed the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean in October. In addition, in the field of environment, Japan concluded the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in December.

#### **(5) Initiatives in the Field of Criminal Justice**

The ICC is the first-ever permanent international criminal court for prosecuting and sentencing, in accordance with international law, individuals who have committed the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. Since becoming a State Party to the ICC Rome Statute in October 2007, Japan has consistently supported the ICC's activities and cooperated with the Court in various ways. Fiscally, Japan is the largest contributor to the ICC, accounting for approximately 16.5% of the entire assessed contributions to the Court as of 2018. With regards to human resources, Japan has consistently produced judges since its accession to the ICC. Japan's candidate in the election of ICC judges held in December 2017, Tomoko Akane, Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation and Public

Prosecutor of Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan, was elected. In addition, Hitoshi Kozaki of the Committee on Budget and Finance was re-elected, Motoo Noguchi continued to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, and Hiroshi Fukuda continued to serve on the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges. These developments have demonstrated Japan's active cooperation for the activities of the ICC. As the ICC evolves as a full-fledged international criminal justice institution, it is imperative to secure cooperation with the ICC, establish the principle of complementarity, and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of its judicial procedures. Japan engages in addressing these challenges through its participation in Assembly of States Parties, including continuing to serve as Co-chair for the Study Group on Governance and Focal Points (Contact Point) for non-cooperation issues.

Besides the aforementioned efforts related to the ICC, in the face of an increase of cross-border crimes in recent years, Japan is further working on ensuring the mutual submission of necessary proof with other countries. Japan is also actively engaged in improving legal frameworks for promoting international cooperation in the field of criminal justice. Japan has been working on negotiations toward concluding international agreements such as the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT)<sup>29</sup>, the Treaty on Extradition<sup>30</sup> and the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons<sup>31</sup>.

## 7 Human Rights

### (1) Initiatives within the UN

#### A UN Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council was established in 2006 as a restructured version of the UN Commission on Human Rights in order to strengthen the UN's ability to address human rights issues as part of a movement toward mainstreaming human rights in the UN. The Human Rights Council holds sessions throughout the year in Geneva (three regular sessions per year, lasting about ten weeks in total) to discuss issues and make recommendations concerning the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Japan served as a member of the Council from June 2006 to June 2011 (the first and the second terms) and January 2013 to December 2015 (the third term). Most recently, Japan was elected in the elections held in October 2016, and currently serves as a member of the Council from January 2017 to December 2019 (the fourth term). Japan is running for the 2019 election aiming to continue to serve as a member of the Council from January 2020.

At the high-level segment (meeting of the main representatives of each country) of the 37th Session in February and March 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii delivered a statement. In his statement, he expressed that 2018 is the milestone year of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Japan will continue to work to protect and promote human rights worldwide. He also raised the importance of the early resolution of the abductions issue. He also stated that Japan would co-table a draft resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's

<sup>29</sup> A legal framework that allows for an efficient and prompt cooperation with legal authorities of other countries in criminal investigation and procedures.

<sup>30</sup> A legal framework having comprehensive and detailed provisions regarding the extradition of criminals to enable more effective cooperation for repressing crime.

<sup>31</sup> A legal framework aiming to facilitate the social rehabilitation of foreign prisoners by giving them the opportunity of serving their sentences in their own countries.

Republic of Korea (DPRK) together with the EU at the 37th session of the Human Rights Council, and requested the understanding and support of the other countries. Furthermore, after the delegation of the Republic of Korea (ROK) mentioned the comfort women issue, he rebuffed the statement by the ROK and explained Japan's position on the issue.

During the same Session, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, co-tabled by Japan and the EU, was adopted without a vote (adopted for 11 consecutive years). This resolution, based on the 2017 Human Rights Council resolution, urges North Korea to take immediate steps to end all human rights violations, including the abductions issue, and recalls the 2017 UN General Assembly Resolution that emphasized serious concerns concerning the report of abductions and other human rights violations by North Korea. Furthermore, the resolution notes the importance and urgency of the abductions issue and the immediate return of all abductees, and expresses the expectation toward the resolution of all issues related to the Japanese nationals, in particular the return of all abductees, to be achieved at the earliest possible date. It also strongly encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to expedite the process for strengthening its capacity decided by the Human Rights Council resolution in March 2017, and requests OHCHR to strengthen advocacy and outreach initiatives. Japan will continue to be actively engaged in discussions in the UN Human Rights Council to resolve human rights issues in the international community.

The UN Human Rights Council conducts the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that periodically reviews the human rights situations of all UN Member States. Japan was reviewed for the third time in 2017. As progress since the previous review (2012), Japan explained that it has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Hague Convention,

the Palermo Convention, and the Trafficking in persons protocol as well as the measures toward realizing “a society in which all women shine” and a “society with the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens,” and Japan's wide range of efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights in the international community. Japan also explained its stance and policy concerning remarks made by each country.

## **B The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly**

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly is, along with the Human Rights Council, the UN's main forum focused on human rights. Generally, in October and November, the Committee discusses a wide range of issues, including social development, women, children, racial discrimination, refugees, crime prevention, and criminal justice, as well as the human rights situations in North Korea, Syria, and Iran, among others. Resolutions adopted by the Third Committee are then adopted by a plenary session of the General Assembly, contributing to the development of international norms.

Every year since 2005, Japan and the EU have co-tabled the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at the UN General Assembly. In 2018, Japan and the EU again co-tabled the resolution at the Third Committee in November and Plenary Session in December of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, which was adopted without a vote. The content of the resolution, based on the UN General Assembly Resolution of 2017, condemns North Korea's gross human rights violations, strongly demanding an end to the violations, and noting the urgency and importance of the issue of international abductions and of the immediate return of all abductees as well as the long years of suffering experienced by abductees and their families, and expects the resolution of all issues related to Japanese nationals, in particular the return of all abductees, to be achieved at the earliest possible

date. Furthermore, it strongly encourages the OHCHR to expedite the process for strengthening its capacity decided by the Human Rights Council resolution in March 2017, and requests OHCHR to strengthen advocate and outreach initiatives.

In addition, Japan also actively participated in discussions on the human rights situations in individual countries, such as Syria, Iran, Myanmar, as well as discussions on various human rights issues (social development, the rights of the child, and etc.). Japan participated actively in discussions in the international community toward protecting and promoting human rights, in cooperation with civil society, such as by dispatching a female representative of a Japanese NGO to serve as the Alternate Representative of Japan at the Third Committee of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, as it has done previously.

### **C 70th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948 as “a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations” without opposition by any country (48 in support, 0 in opposition, 8 abstained 2 absent). Various meetings were held in 2018 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the UDHR. At a symposium commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Commissioner for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights system jointly held with the Ministry of Justice on December 1, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki gave a speech, demonstrating Japan’s efforts for human rights diplomacy both at home and abroad, including at the UN.

### **D Ending Violence Against Children**

In February 2018, the first-ever “Agenda 2030 for Children: End Violence Solutions Summit” was held in Stockholm jointly by the Global

Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPeVAC) and the Government of Sweden. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii attended the Summit representing Japan, and stated Japan would be actively engaged in ending violence against children, including by becoming a “Pathfinding Country.” Japan’s membership of GPeVAC was approved in May 2018, and Foreign Minister Kono was appointed a member of the Board of GPeVAC. Moreover, with its contribution of 650 million yen in the FY2017 budget, Japan became the first country to contribute to the humanitarian window of the Fund to End Violence Against Children that supports the Partnership’s activities, and realized humanitarian aid projects by earmarking funds to protect children affected by conflicts in Nigeria and Uganda. Japan will continue to cooperate with the international community to promote initiatives both within Japan and abroad to end violence against children.

### **E National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights**

Japan is committed to the implementation of the “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework (UNGPs)” that was endorsed at the 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council. As part of it, Japan is working toward formulating a NAP pertaining to respect for human rights in the context of business, which is becoming a new global standard for business conduct. As the first step of the NAP formulation process, Japan conducted a baseline study to capture the landscape of the existing legislation and policies regarding the protection of human rights in the course of business activities. Through formulating the NAP, Japan aims to contribute to promoting and protecting human rights in the field of business and human rights. Japan will continue to drive the process while taking into account discussions with various stakeholders.

## (2) Initiatives Concerning International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

### A International Human Rights Law

At the 36th Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights held at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2018, an election of the members of the Human Rights Committee was held, and Japanese candidate Shuichi Furuya, professor of Waseda

Law School, was elected. From 1987 to the present, Japan continuously produced members to the Human Rights Committee, and Professor Furuya is the third member from Japan. Periodic review on the status of the domestic implementation of the various human rights treaties that Japan has concluded is carefully and thoroughly examined in accordance with the provisions of the relevant treaties. Japan's periodic reports were examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial

#### Column

### Japanese Experts Working in the Human Rights Area in the International Community (1)

#### On my selection to be a member of the Human Rights Committee

Shuichi Furuya, Professor, Waseda University

In June 2018, I was elected to be a member of the Human Rights Committee established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It was 70 years ago when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. It then adopted the ICCPR in 1966 to embody the ideal of the declaration. The ICCPR obliges State Parties to guarantee rights and freedom such as rights to life, liberty and security of persons, implementation of fair trials, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, rights to participate in elections and public affairs, and equality before the law, each of which is essential for realizing democracy and rule of law.



The Human Rights Committee's main task is to review the reports on the guarantee of said rights that are submitted periodically by the States Parties to the Committee, as well as accepting and examining the petitions from victims who complain of the infringement on these rights. While the Committee is often seen as a watchdog monitoring the implementation of the ICCPR because of its aforementioned role, my understanding is that it watches over the efforts of States Parties to implement the ICCPR, gives suitable advice and encourages improvements. Human rights are universal and must therefore be guaranteed equally everywhere in the world and in all cultures, histories, and religions. Meanwhile, each country has its own political system, economic conditions and cultural traditions. I feel that working out how to promote and realize the universality of human rights, while taking such circumstances duly into consideration, makes the work of the Committee members so difficult and also so rewarding.

I met with representatives from over 140 countries in the election campaigns that lasted for four months. Through these meetings, I became keenly aware of the importance of properly listening to the voices of a wide range of stakeholders, not only the States Parties, but also victims who complain of the infringement of their human rights and members of civil society, and repeatedly engaging in persistent dialogues. Listening to the opinions of others in a sincere manner regardless of their position, and patience to pursue common understanding – those are the ways to form the foundation of democratic society as advocated by the ICCPR, and also the approach that I intend to firmly follow as a member of the Committee.

Discrimination in August 2018, and by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances in November 2018 in Geneva.

### **B International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**

In the intergovernmental process on IHL in Geneva, Japan participated actively in discussions on strengthening the respect for IHL. Moreover, as part of its efforts to promote awareness and understanding of IHL, MOFA dispatched a lecturer to the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as it did in 2016 and 2017.

#### **(3) Initiatives Undertaken via Bilateral Dialogue**

In addition to initiatives within the UN and other multilateral frameworks, Japan recognizes the importance of bilateral dialogues, in order to protect and promote human rights. The 5th Japan-Myanmar Human Rights Dialogue (Nay Pyi Taw) was held in February 2018, while the 9th Japan-Cambodia Human Rights Dialogue (Phnom Penh) was held in May. In addition to exchanging information on their respective initiatives in the field of human rights, the participants in these dialogues exchanged opinions concerning cooperation in multilateral fora such as the UN.

#### **(4) Contribution to Refugee Issues**

From the perspective of international contribution and humanitarian aid, Japan started accepting refugees from Myanmar who were temporarily residing in Thailand, under a resettlement program that ran from FY2010 to FY2014 (the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to a third country that agrees to accept them for long-term settlement).

In addition to accepting refugees from Myanmar who were residing temporarily in Malaysia since FY2015, the Government of Japan allowed



Resettled refugees receiving orientation on lifestyle, safety, and other matters (Photo: Refugee Assistance Headquarters)

accepting eligible family members of those who are already resettled in Japan, based on the premise of mutual aid with those who remain in Thailand. From FY2010 to FY2018, 174 people from 44 families have come to Japan under this program.

Until now, the main destinations for refugees to be accepted for resettlement have been Western countries. Japan, as the first Asian country to accept resettled refugees, has attracted both high praise and high hopes from the international community in regard to its proactive efforts to address refugee issues. While local governments in the Tokyo Metropolitan region have played a central role until now in operations concerning the resettlement destinations for refugees upon their arrival in Japan, proactive efforts are being made to resettle refugees in municipalities outside of the Tokyo Metropolitan area, from the perspective of promoting nationwide understanding of the refugee issue. From April 2018, resettlement for the eighth group commenced in Kure City in Hiroshima Prefecture and Fujisawa City in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Since the start of implementation of this method in FY2015, there have been major changes in the international situation concerning refugees. Based on such background, in order to discuss expansion of acceptance to resettlement programs, Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council for Refugee Issues decided to establish a review meeting



concerning expanding acceptance programs for refugees through the resettlement in October 2018 for the purpose of discussing such issues. This review committee hears the views of experts, and holds discussions between the ministries, agencies, and experts to consider whether it is necessary to expand the acceptance, and if so, to what extent.

## 8 Women

### (1) G7 Charlevoix Summit

At the G7 Charlevoix Summit (Canada), gender was taken up as a cross-cutting theme. The Summit Communiqué affirmed continuation of efforts toward gender equality, and there was adoption of the “Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries” and the “Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.” Japan took this opportunity to announce support of 200 million U.S. dollars for high-quality education and human resources training support for girls, adolescent girls, and women in developing countries.

### (2) G20 Buenos Aires Summit

At the G20 Buenos Aires Summit (Argentina), there were discussions regarding women’s empowerment from viewpoints including promotion of women’s labor participation, eliminating the gender gap in participation in digital and science fields, access to jobs and childcare leave, and continuous support for women entrepreneurs. The Leaders’ Declaration incorporated text welcoming continued implementation of the Women Entrepreneurs Financing Initiative (We-Fi), whose launch was announced at the G20 Hamburg Summit (Germany) in July 2017 and to which Japan has contributed 50 million U.S. dollars.

### (3) World Assembly for Women (WAW!)

Japan has held the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014 to communicate, both domestically and abroad, Japan’s initiatives for promoting women’s empowerment, and to provide an opportunity for discussions regarding various matters concerning women by top leaders from Japan and abroad who are active in pioneering politics, economics, and social fields. The 5th WAW! was held in March 2019 concurrently with the W20, one of the G20 engagement groups (groups composed of stakeholders from the international community that are independent of governments).

The theme of the 5th WAW! was “WAW! for diversity,” and discussions were centered on women’s viewpoints regarding current issues faced by modern Japanese society and the international community, under the recognition that it is important to incorporate diverse



Malala Yousafzai giving a speech at the Fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (March 23, 2019, Tokyo)



Photograph of a discussion at the Fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (March 23, 2019, Tokyo)

viewpoints toward realizing a sustainable, diverse, and inclusive society that “leaves no one behind,” which is stated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Discussion topics included “Leadership for Regional Development and Job Creation,” “Media and Contents to Nurture Diversity,” “Women’s Participation in Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Post Conflict Recovery,” “Diversity for Growth: Corporate Management and Working Environment,” and “Future of Family: Getting Support, Utilizing and Sharing.”

In addition, there were discussions at the W20 regarding “Closing the Gender Gap for New Prosperity: Enhancing Governance for Women’s Empowerment,” “Creation of New Market Value by Women Entrepreneurs,” “Gender Lens Investing: Emerging Global Trends,” “Towards the Gender Equality in the Digital Era,” “Women as Patients and Caregivers: Improving Gender Equity and Labor Inclusion by Addressing Healthcare Disparities,” and “Closing the Gender Gaps at Work: Leading a Happy Work and Life.”

#### (4) International Cooperation for the Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries

In May 2016, Prime Minister Abe announced the “Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment,” formulated as one of the new thematic policies under the Development Cooperation Charter, and declared that measures would be implemented to train about 5,000 female government administrative officials and to improve the learning environment for about 50,000 girls over the three years from 2016 to 2018. This was steadily implemented. At the Third World Assembly for Women (WAW! 2016) held in December 2016, Prime Minister Abe promised to provide support amounting to more than 3 billion U.S. dollars for women in developing countries until 2018 focusing on: (1) promoting women’s and girls’ rights; (2) creating an enabling

environment for women and girls to reach their full potential; and (3) advancing women’s leadership in politics, economics, and other public fields. These measures were steadily implemented. In addition, support was announced for 200 million U.S. dollars for high-quality education and human resources training support for girls, adolescent girls and women in developing countries at the G7 Charlevoix Summit.

#### (5) Initiatives in the UN

##### **A United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**

The 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was held in March, and Japan sent a delegation consisting of Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office Yamashita as the Chief Delegate, Japan Representative Yumiko Tanaka, representatives from various government ministries, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and NGOs. At the conference, there were discussions on the priority theme of “challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.” In her remarks during the General Discussion, Representative Tanaka appealed for domestic initiatives for promotion of family management agreements with decisions on salaries and days off based on family discussions, and introduced international support such as gender awareness activities in Africa. At the ministerial round table, she emphasized the importance of efforts toward eliminating violence against all women including women in agricultural communities and regions.

##### **B UN Women**

Japan contributed approximately 23.66 million U.S. dollars in 2018 to UN Women and the contributions are used in ways such as empowering Syrian refugee women (enhancing their capabilities and social position) and measures to counter violent extremism in Africa.

UN Women has been implementing the HeForShe Campaign to call for the involvement of men and boys in gender equality. Prime Minister Abe was selected as one of ten champions to accelerate the campaign. Japan will continue to deepen its cooperation with UN Women.

### **C Dealing with sexual violence**

Sexual violence as a tactic of war must not be overlooked, and it is important to put an end to impunity for perpetrators and to support victims of violence. To make the 21st century a world with no human rights violations against women, Japan is actively engaging in efforts in this field, and places importance on cooperating with international organizations including UN Action and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as participating in international discussions.

In 2018, Japan provided financial support of 1.1 million U.S. dollars to the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, contributing to strengthening the police and judicial capabilities of Iraq and countries in the Middle East and Africa. Furthermore, Japan continues to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), earmarking approximately 550,000 Euros out of a cumulative contribution of about 750,000 Euros for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Through such contributions, Japan engages in efforts to support victims of sexual violence in conflicts.

### **D Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**

In order to realize a peaceful society more effectively, it is important to secure women's participation in all stages in conflict prevention,

conflict resolution, and peace keeping and peacebuilding with integration of gender perspective. Japan formulated a national action plan in 2015 to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and other relevant resolutions on women, peace and security. The action plan has been effective since 2016, and monitoring and evaluating of the implementation is conducted. As a result, the second annual report was published in July 2018. The plan also clearly targets a revision to be conducted in three years following its formulation, and the revised version was formulated in March 2019. In accordance with the national action plan, Japan has made contributions in the WPS field through financial supports to international organizations, mainly UN Women and the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. At the G7 Toronto Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Canada in 2018, the G7 foreign ministers agreed to establish the G7 Women, Peace and Security Partnerships Initiative. With Sri Lanka as its partner country, Japan will contribute to implementing the WPS field in Sri Lanka from 2019.

### **E Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Since 1987, Japan has continued to provide members for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). At the 20th meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2018, there was an election for the members of the CEDAW and Professor Hiroko Akizuki of Asia University was elected to a member of the Committee.

## Column

**Japanese Experts Working in the Human Rights Area in the International Community (2)**

**On my selection to be a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**  
**Hiroko Akizuki, Professor, Asia University**

2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while 2019 marked the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. I feel highly honored to have been elected to be a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in these important years and to have begun this work.



My hope is to build a world in which all women and girls can choose for themselves their desired way of life and become who they want to be. However, even 40 years after the adoption of the Convention, women continue to face discrimination around the world. I want to contribute to revealing the nature of the problem from the perspective of de facto equality, not just legal equality, and ensure substantial and effective implementation of the Convention.

The main mission of CEDAW is assessing reports submitted by signatory countries to review their progress in implementation of the Convention. Signatory countries are primary agents in carrying out the Convention, while CEDAW members provide assistance to their implementation. As a member, I aim to listen carefully to updates from signatory countries on the status of implementation of the Convention in their countries, and difficult problems if any exist. At the same time, I intend to discuss and communicate with each signatory country through constructive dialogues that women and girls also possess rights and therefore it is necessary to empower women and girls by providing education on rights and freedom, and to ensure participation of women in policy decisions to adequately reflect the opinions of women. Furthermore, I will strive to present balanced and fair opinions by obtaining sufficient information through dialogue with civil society and directly hearing from women and girls.

As a CEDAW member, I will make efforts so that I can contribute to building a free and equal society in terms of dignity and rights for everyone, and especially women and girls.