

**Video message by H.E. Mr. UTO Takashi,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
At the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security  
in Vietnam**

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Distinguished panelists and participants, I am UTO Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation and respect to the Government of Viet Nam and the United Nations for convening this '*International Conference on Women, Peace and Security*'. I am honored to deliver some remarks on behalf of the Government of Japan in today's panel discussion on designing and implementing National Action Plans.

Japan formulated its '*National Action Plan for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and other relevant resolutions*' in 2015. We collected diverse opinions by working together with related ministries and agencies as well as civil society. As a result, we have been able to elaborate a comprehensive National Action Plan (NAP) that includes Japan's initiatives at home and abroad, including disaster response. We are currently monitoring the NAP implementation and preparing a report with input from experts who evaluate the progress.

Regarding the implementation of the NAP, Japan has been taking concrete actions domestically and internationally in four areas. These are namely participation, conflict prevention, protection, and humanitarian reconstruction assistance. For example, under the *G7 WPS Partnership Initiative*, Japan has been providing assistance to Sri Lanka for the formulation of its NAP. We also support women's participation in the national reconciliation and peace processes. In addition, Japan provides a wide variety of assistance in collaboration with international organizations and JICA. This includes protecting women and supporting victims of violence in countries affected by conflicts in the Middle East and Africa, promoting economic empowerment of women, and strengthening police, military and judicial capabilities

to prevent sexual violence in conflict.

Japan also provides assistance through multilateral frameworks. We vigorously support the activities of the TOE, *Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict*, and since 2014 have contributed 9.5 million dollars for projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Iraq. Also, since 2018, Japan has contributed 8.8 million dollars for the efforts initiated by UN Women to promote peace, security and humanitarian assistance in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Furthermore, this year, Japan has contributed two million euros to the *Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*, established by Dr. Denis Mukwege and Goodwill Ambassador Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates of 2018. Moreover, at the G20 Osaka Summit, which Japan presided over last year, the importance of women's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding was clearly stated in the *G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration*.

Today, amid the COVID-19 outbreak, there is a need to mitigate the impact of the pandemic to a minimum and build back a better society in which all people can live with dignity, including those affected by conflicts. Japan will continue to work closely with the international community and civil society in this area in order to turn this crisis into an opportunity.

Thank you for your attention. I hope today's meeting will be just as fruitful as yesterday's.