



## 1. BACKGROUND

- ◆ The Western Balkan countries (WB: Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia) promote domestic reforms and regional cooperation.
- ◆ Establishment of the **rule of law** and the **democracy** are necessary for EU membership.
- ◆ Distrusts among ethnic groups remain in the WB.

In January 2018, PM Abe announced “Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative” to support socio-economic reforms and facilitate ethnic reconciliation of the WB.

Japan highly values the stability of the WB. We will promote cooperation with the WB through “Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative”.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Supporting **socio-economic reforms** of the WB **toward EU accession.**
- ◆ Facilitating **ethnic reconciliation** by promoting cooperation in the WB.

## 3. CONCRETE MEASURES

### (1) Bilateral Cooperation

- ◆ Promoting **high-level dialogue.**
- ◆ Designating **an Ambassador** in charge of the WB.
- ◆ Establishment of **new embassies.**
- ◆ Bilateral assistance through **ODA.**
- ◆ Promoting **Japanese companies' investment** to the WB.



Bilateral assistance through ODA



### (2) Promotion of Cooperation in the region (Japan-WB cooperation)

- ◆ Sharing **Japan's expertise** on the common challenges for the WB.
- Organizing seminars such as disaster prevention, SME promotion, environment protection.
- Youth exchange program (for ethnic reconciliation), Capacity building for civil society.



### (3) Cooperation with the third parties

- ◆ Implementing **collaborative support with EU countries** emphasizing WB's EU accession.
- ◆ Collaboration with “Berlin Process”.
- Collaborative support with Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, V4, Slovenia, Romania.



Reconstruction of school with V4



Japanese Company in WB



Business Seminar in Tokyo