

**Statement by H. E. Mr. UESUGI Kentaro,**  
**Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**  
**At the Ministerial Meeting of the UN Group of Friends of Mediation**  
(February 2, 2022)

Excellencies, good morning and good evening, from Tokyo, Japan. My name is Uesugi Kentaro, and I am a Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the governments of Finland and Turkey for their efforts in organizing this meeting. I also appreciate the briefing by Ms. DiCarlo. I am honored to attend this meeting as a member of the UN Group of Friends of Mediation.

Mediation is enshrined in the UN Charter as one peaceful means to settle disputes. It has also been practiced by states and the United Nations as an effective tool in conflict prevention. The UN's Secretary-General, his Special Representatives, and his Envoys have led by example in actively carrying out mediation and good offices based on their mandates. Japan strongly supports such efforts and is pleased that the Group of Friends has continued to rally support for them.

For mediation to be effective and to sustain peace throughout the entire society, it is crucial to involve various stakeholders in mediation , such as the youth, women, civil society, the private sector, and local communities. In this regard, I appreciate in particular the four General Assembly resolutions adopted to date and the work of the Group of Friends, that have promoted discussions on mediation in a way that raises awareness on inclusivity and long-term perspectives.

Japan has contributed to sustaining peace, including mediation, both by engaging in mediation as a partner to concerned parties and by supporting UN initiatives.

One example is conflict resolution in Mindanao, which was also mentioned by His Excellency Secretary Locsine of the Philippines.

Our work concerning the conflict resolution in Mindanao in the Philippines is a case in point. In the past 20 years, Japan has been engaged in confidence-building, with an

emphasis on socio-economic development. Japan has contributed to the conclusion of a peace agreement by mediating between the Philippine Government and an armed separatist group. Japan currently provides assistance to enhance efforts ahead of constituting an autonomous government of Bangsamoro in 2025.

I should note that Japanese NGOs and the private sector are also engaged in a variety of activities to promote dialogue for peace among the parties concerned. We should encourage such aspiring initiatives.

As mediation is clearly conducive to building peace, I also hope to see synergies with the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Security Council, and other entities.

Before concluding, I would like to offer Japan's continued commitment to work towards sustaining peace, through conflict prevention, mediation, and the peacebuilding that follows.

Thank you for your time and your kind attention.