

Video message by Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting on Haiti

Good morning.

My name is TAKEI Shunsuke and I am State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. First of all, I'd like to extend our appreciation to Minister Joly and all those concerned for holding this ministerial-level meeting, along with our heartfelt condolences and sympathy for the victims and damage caused by the recent floods and earthquake in Haiti. Also, please allow me to participate through this video message due to my official travel schedule.

Japan, as the G7 Presidency, a member of the UN Security Council and a longstanding partner of Haiti, will actively contribute to improving Haiti's security and humanitarian situation.

The G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué reiterated our commitment to strengthening coordination with Latin American and Caribbean partners and other actors to meet Haiti's humanitarian and security needs.

Close cooperation and joint efforts by the international community, together with the United Nations, are essential for stabilizing Haiti. Japan, at the Security Council, will support the mandate extension of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) this July and actively contribute to peace and security in Haiti, including discussions on additional sanctions designation against gangs.

In light of the deteriorating security situation since last fall, Japan has recently decided to offer a new contribution of approximately 3 million US dollars to the Basket Fund in support of the Haitian National Police (PNH). Moreover, to address the worsening humanitarian situation, we have provided Emergency Grant Aid to counter the cholera outbreak as well as food assistance.

To ensure Haiti's medium- and long-term stability, it is indispensable to normalize the political situation by conducting free, fair, and transparent elections.

In this regard, we commend the efforts of the Haitian government to achieve a comprehensive political agreement. Japan encourages early implementation of the electoral process by promoting dialogue between political groups.

Finally, I sincerely hope that through this meeting we can further strengthen our cooperation for peace and stability in Haiti as well as in the region as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.

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