

Statement by H.E. Dr. Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Vice-Minister
of Foreign Affairs of Japan
The Fifth Friends of Yemen Ministerial Meeting

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the governments of the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen for hosting and co-chairing this meeting. Japan welcomes and strongly supports the progress towards the National Dialogue Conference to be held on March 18. We sincerely hope that, through Yemen's own efforts, together with continued international support, the Yemeni people will achieve their reconciliation, stability and socio-economic development. Japan always supports Yemen's efforts for its nation building.

Today, I have the privilege to announce Japan's new assistance package to Yemen totaling 47.2 million US dollars, in addition to its contribution of 34.6 million US dollars in 2012. The new assistance package will be composed of two elements. First, in support of political transition in Yemen, Japan will provide 3 million US dollars for the National Dialogue Conference Secretariat and for the preparation of the forthcoming referendum and elections. Second, Japan will provide humanitarian assistance of 44.2 million US dollars through United Nations agencies to serve the benefit of vulnerable people in conflict-affected areas in Yemen, particularly to children, women and internally displaced persons in the south of Yemen. Japan's contribution is designed to meet their basic human needs such as food, water, tents and blankets, and will provide them with health care services.

Human resource development is another priority. Japan recently provided training courses to 13 Yemeni government officials in Tokyo to enhance their aid absorptive capacity. Japan will continue to offer various training opportunities to the Yemeni

cadets who are tasked to design and administer the development process in Yemen. The Yemeni Coast Guard and the Supreme Commissions for Election and Referendum remain one of our strategic partners in this respect.

In concluding, I am pleased to announce that Japan's assistance of 34.6 million US dollars in 2012 was fully disbursed, and our disbursement rate is now 100 percent. I sincerely hope that Japan's contribution will help the Yemeni people to overcome the current political, economic and humanitarian challenges, thereby achieve peace, stability and prosperity in the country and the region as a whole. I assure you that Japan always support the Yemeni people.

Thank you.

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