

Event to declare a global commitment to end sexual violence in conflict  
24 September 2013

**JAPAN**

The Right Honourable William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,

Her Excellency, Ms. Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence in Conflict,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We should not ignore sexual violence in conflict. Japan strongly supports Mr. Hague's initiative to prevent such violence and will provide backing for it. In addition, we have high regard for the intensive activities undertaken by Ms. Bangura to prevent sexual violence.

In particular, discussions about preventing sexual violence in conflict have taken place this year at a variety of forums, including the G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the UN Security Council, and the UN General Assembly, and we welcome the fact that a more widespread awareness of its importance is being shared by the international community.

Many women are still falling victim to sexual violence in conflicts across the globe. In particular, this initiative's efforts to end the culture of impunity and to support the victims of such violence are vital in order to eradicate the scourge of sexual violence in conflict, without delay.

Accordingly, Japan is providing support in this field. Via UN Women, we are implementing a project aimed at eliminating violence against women in Afghanistan.

As a result, about 2,000 women have received shelter service, 736 have received medical or psychological support, and another 941 have received legal advice. This actually led to court proceedings in 68 cases. We are delighted that this initiative is generating some positive outcomes in Afghanistan.

We are also doing our utmost to move forward with the formulation of Japan's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which was adopted in 2000. In doing so, we intend to work in partnership with civil society to incorporate measures that Japan should take in order to prevent conflict, protect women who have suffered sexual violence, and promote women's participation in the peacebuilding and reconstruction process.

The global High-Level Declaration agreed by the Champions Network set up by Mr. Hague and Ms. Bangura has been announced at this side event. I am pleased to see that this British initiative, which became a G8 initiative, has now spread beyond the G8 and is being supported by a wide range of countries. The aims of formulating the international protocol referred to in the global Declaration are also supported in the Declaration adopted at the G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April. Japan welcomes the fact that work is progressing under this British initiative, with the aim of formulating this international protocol by the end of 2014.

I would like to express once again my gratitude and respect for the leadership provided by my colleague Mr. Hague. Together with all of the other Champions gathered here today, we will redouble our efforts to eradicate sexual violence in conflict.