

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mitsuo SAKABA, Representative of the
Government of Japan to NATO at Meeting on Afghanistan at the level
of Heads of States and/or Government
NATO Wales Summit (September 4, 2014)**

- In order for the international community and NATO to sustain engagement in Afghanistan beyond 2014, it needs to conclude the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the US and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with NATO. Japan expects Afghanistan to sign these agreements at the earliest possible date. In addition, Japan hopes Afghanistan to launch a new government at an early date and even more actively address important challenges such as maintenance of security, reconciliation with the Taliban and sustainable economic development. Japan will fully support efforts made by Afghan people together with the international community.
- During the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan held in July 2012, Japan announced that it would provide up to around 3 billion dollars of assistance to Afghanistan in about 5 years from 2012 in socio-economic development and enhancement of security capabilities. Japan has thus far provided 2.055 billion dollars, out of which 558 million dollars were allocated to enhancement of security. Japan shoulders about 30% of salaries of the Afghanistan National Police and contributes to maintaining, increasing the number of the police including female police and building their capacity. Japan has also supported socio-economic development of Afghanistan in such areas as education, health, and road improvement, and extended 172 million dollars to improve the facility of the Kabul International Airport, and enhance the security and maintenance capabilities of the Airport. Japan intends to continue supporting the Government of Afghanistan in maintaining the airport smoothly even after the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).
- For the future, Japan plans to continue providing assistance as committed at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, and, in the security sector, Japan intends to extend assistance with its focus on the police, as announced at the Chicago Summit. When it comes to continuing assistance to Afghanistan, it is important to review efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan to implement the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF), affirm its

firm commitment, and strengthen our relations of trust with strong backing of the international community.

- In line the recent cabinet decision, Japan, which upholds the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, will continue its contribution to maintenance of security and socio-economic development of Afghanistan in collaboration with NATO and other players in the international community.