

**The Regional Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Summit
Statement by Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**

At Sydney, Australia, June 12, 2015

Chair the Honorable George Brandis,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I sincerely welcome that we have deepened our understanding and shared challenges we're facing on violent extremism, an urgent task that the international society should tackle with a unified voice, through our active discussions during the last two days.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I firmly condemn despicable acts of terrorism, which are persistent around the world. Japanese nationals have also been deprived of their lives in an outrageous manner in Syria and Tunisia this year. I myself visited Tunisia right after the terrorist attack. Facing the tragic situation on the site, I renewed my determination of the fight against terrorism. Moreover, I have led as the chair a task force for bolstering the safety measures for Japanese nationals overseas, which has just worked out a set of policies to be taken for ensuring their safety.

In the fight against terrorism, it is necessary to address an underlying problem, which is the spread of violent extremism. Terrorists have propagated the ideology of violent extremism to inspire and recruit a number of young people by using the Internet in a skillful manner.

Nevertheless, I am greatly encouraged to see that the international society stands united and takes measures one after another against this challenge. At The high-level summit of the UN Security Council last September, Resolution 2178, of which Japan was one of the co-sponsors, was unanimously adopted as an outstanding step to deal with the issues of Foreign Terrorist Fighters. Furthermore, other

various meetings have been held in this regard, including Global Counter-terrorism Forum (GCTF) and the White House Summit on Countering the Violent Extremism held this February.

Meanwhile, we have come to share an idea that cooperation with civil societies such as local communities and NGOs is essential to confront terrorism and violent extremism. As a significant outcome of today's Regional Summit to Counter Violent Extremism, we have shared the view, together with representatives of civil societies, that we should fight against the lies of terrorists, protect vulnerable individuals from the narratives of terrorists, and strengthen regional coordination to work out strategies to fulfill the goal. I would like to highly appreciate the initiatives of The Honorable Tony Abbot, Prime Minister of Australia and the Australian team.

In response to the terrorist incident of murdering Japanese in Syria happened earlier this year, the Government of Japan has formulated 3-Pillar Foreign Policy.

First, we will strengthen counter-terrorism measures. We have decided to contribute approximately 15.5 million USD through UNODC and other organizations as assistance for counter-terrorism capacity building in the Middle East and Africa.

Second, we will enhance diplomacy towards stability and prosperity in the Middle East. We are ready to further expand humanitarian assistance of around 200 million USD, while deploying proactive diplomacy as well as people-to-people exchanges in various levels.

As the third pillar, we will provide assistance in creating societies resilient to radicalization, which is just the theme of today's summit. Prime Minister Abe delivered a speech titled "The best way is to go in the middle" in Cairo, this January. The proverb "The best way is to go in the middle," which is based on the virtues of harmony and generosity, is not only a traditional wisdom in Japan but also a part of the Islamic *hadith*. I believe that it is effective to share such an idea

with moderate Muslims in order to tackle violent extremism together. Japan will continue to support other nations based on this idea for countering violent extremism in each community.

We also contribute to creating resilient societies through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) in coordination with ASEAN countries. For example, we have implemented programs such as publication of books to facilitate de-radicalization and research on the process of radicalization among young people.

In addition, we co-chaired a workshop on counter-radicalization with Malaysia within the framework of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) this March. With participation of government officials and researchers, a wide range of discussions were made in the workshop, on the spread of violent extremism, countermeasures on terrorists' narratives, de-radicalization and social rehabilitation.

The Government of Japan is determined to never give in to terrorism. And we will implement effective measures addressing "the root of terrorism."

A vicious cycle I see. Those societies suffering from difficulties such as poverty or conflicts are susceptible to terrorism or violent extremism. And this brings to the societies another difficulty for their economic development, making the societies again conducive to breeding violently extreme ideas. This vicious cycle shall now be cut off. Every society can accomplish democracy and economic development as nursing its own unique culture at the same time. Japan will, united with people around the world, continue steadfastly to fulfill its responsibility to fight against terrorism.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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