

Statement by Ambassador Hiroshi Takahashi
Senior Officials Meeting
for Follow-up of Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan
on September 5, 2015 in Kabul

His Excellency Mr. Eklil Hakimi, Minister of Finance,
His Excellency Mr. Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the U.N.
Secretary General for Afghanistan,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, let me begin by paying respect to the Government of Afghanistan for its effort to host this Senior Officials Meeting, and to UNAMA and other institutions for their contribution to the preparation of this event.

Three years ago in Tokyo, we agreed on the partnership between Afghanistan and the international community in order for Afghanistan to realize its self-reliance upon the “Transformation Decade”. We welcome that the Tokyo framework, which was initiated based on this partnership, is being refreshed today.

The core principle of the partnership agreed on in Tokyo is “mutual accountability” and, it is important to maintain this principle in refreshing the framework. The international community has been making every possible effort to fulfill its own responsibility by providing necessary assistance, precisely because we acknowledge that it is essential that Afghanistan becomes a self-sustained and stable state. Hence, Afghanistan, while benefiting from the international assistance, needs to demonstrate its ownership in its effort towards successful state reconstruction. In our view, it is because of this mutuality between Afghanistan and the international community, that we will be able to achieve the important goal of Afghanistan’s self-reliance and stability, which then would lead to stability of the neighboring region and the international community as a whole.

At the London Conference last year, the National Unity Government presented its strategy document towards self-reliance, then identified its short-term priorities, which Japan sees as a proactive effort of the Afghan government to fulfill its own responsibility. Japan appreciates the progress

made in various priority areas and is anxious to see development in other areas such as the electoral reform which H.E. the President referred to this morning. At the same time, as the progress report presented by the government today clearly indicates, sufficient accomplishment has not been made in some areas such as fiscal and electoral reforms. Also, the Attorney General's position, which bears a crucial role in establishing the rule of law including prevention of corruption, has not been filled yet. We hope that the government of Afghanistan goes back to the original spirit of mutual accountability and makes further efforts in a wide range of areas from governance to development. Japan, in turn, will support such sincere efforts of the Afghan government to fulfill its commitments, based on the principle of mutual accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since 2001, Japan has been supporting Afghanistan's pursuit of its self-reliance through our assistance worth approximately 5.8 billion dollars. This is exactly why Japan values (1) agriculture, which is a key industry for job creation and income generation, (2) infrastructure, which provides the foundation for all the economic activities and improves regional connectivity, and (3) development of human resources that are capable of running the government towards the future. The capacity to maintain security is also an indispensable element in achieving self-reliance, and Japan has been contributing to the capacity building of the Afghan National Police.

Japan is determined to continue its assistance, so that the Afghan government can realize its self-reliance through prompt implementation of its commitments based on the renewed mutual accountability framework.

Thank you very much.

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