



## *Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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**Remark at Round Table 2 by H.E. Mr. Seiji KIHARA,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
UNGA Special Session on the World Drug Problem  
April 20, 2016**

Co-Chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to be a panelist of this round table 2 of the special session.

As State Minister for Foreign Affairs, I would like to introduce Japan's efforts on countering organized crime, including drug trafficking and terrorism, focusing on international cooperation which falls under our ministry's jurisdiction.

Co-Chairs,

To begin with, I would like to share Japan's understanding of this round table's theme "Drugs and Crime".

Drug trafficking is one of the most traditional forms of organized crime. It produces large amounts of illicit profit and illicit financial flow which damage sound international economic activities and hinder economic growth. In recent years, an increasing linkage between organized crime, including drug trafficking, and terrorism has further destabilized the international environment. The illicit profit stemming from organized crime has become a financial source of terrorism. We even hear of cases where terrorists used drugs to drive suicide bombers to explode themselves. We are also deeply concerned by the global and rapid spread of illegal production of synthetic drugs, including ATS and NPS.

In short, the world drug problem is increasing its threat. We recognize that strengthening efforts against the problem is an urgent task of the international society.

Co-Chairs,

Japan's measures to tackle the drug problem are criminalization of production, trade and possession as well as use. We promote strict law enforcement even for end users. At the same time, we are working hard to broadly raise awareness and promote drug abuse prevention to the general public. Such strict measures and prevention activities are thought to result in "a deterrent force" suppressing new drug

abusers. The lifetime prevalence rates in Japan of the most abused drugs, cannabis and methamphetamine, are only 1.0% and 0.5%, respectively. I believe that these numbers are evidence of our drug policy's success.

The drug problem is however a transnational and global problem, which needs to be tackled by international society as a whole, regardless of our individual domestic situations. International society needs to address loopholes of international drug control mechanisms, especially in countries and regions vulnerable to the drug problem, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

With this understanding, Japan has been actively contributing to the various measures in many regions. Due to time constraint, I would like to highlight a few of our efforts.

Japan has supported Afghanistan and its counter-narcotics efforts for nearly 10 years. We welcome the results achieved by Afghanistan's Government in reducing certain areas of illicit cultivation of opium poppy. However, the linkage between the drug problem and terrorism in Afghanistan is becoming stronger with the increased involvement of the Taliban in illicit cultivation of opium poppy and ISIL's suspected large illicit revenues from trafficking of heroin.

This situation underlines the need for the international society to continue its effort in supporting Afghanistan. In order to ensure Afghanistan's stability and prevent terrorism, Japan has recently placed its emphasis on alternative development. We have supported poor farmers and women in converting illicit production of opium poppy to a licit alternative, such as roses and saffron, which has resulted in the provision of alternative livelihoods to approximately 80 women.

Co-Chairs,

Japan has doubled its contribution to activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the Middle East and Africa, from the previous year to 12 million USD in this year. We continue to further strengthen our support to this region where terrorism threats are increasing. In Sub-Saharan Africa, we support the UNODC in conducting a new risk assessment of the linkage between organized crime and terrorist financing. If useful evidence is found, it will facilitate effective countermeasures to organized crime and terrorism.

Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's new engagement in Central Asia last year, to counter the increasing risk of the NPS problem in this region.

Putting this commitment into action, Japan hosted the first regional seminar on synthetic drugs including ATS and NPS in Central Asia this February, in cooperation with the UNODC, the Government of Kazakhstan and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. At the seminar our expert from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare shared our national efforts based on high-tech forensics and experience in domestic regulations.

Co-Chairs,

Japan has consistently been a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs since its inception in 1961, with the exception of only a few years. Japan reaffirms the principal role of the CND as the policy-making body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters. We continue to commit to tackling the world drug problem by actively contributing to the discussion in the CND and cooperating with UNODC, Japan's strategic partner in this field.

Thank you very much.