



*Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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**National Statement  
by H.E. Mr. Seiji KIHARA,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
UNGA Special Session on the World Drug Problem  
19-21 April 2016**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to you, President Lykketoft, for convening this UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem for the first time in 18 years.

Japan has so far actively participated in the discussions leading up to UNGASS. We are very much looking forward to having constructive and open discussions in this session as was the case during the preparatory process.

Mr. President,

The world drug problem continues to pose serious threat to international societies and is of growing concern. I would like to raise three points which exacerbate the problem.

The first point is the global spread of illicit manufacturing of methamphetamine. The second is the emergence of NPS as a new challenge. The third is the increasing global instability caused by terrorism and the linkage between terrorism and organized crime including drug trafficking.

Japan is especially concerned about the third point. Instability of the international environment facilitates the vicious cycle of terrorism and violent extremism. Countering the drug problem constitutes an integral part of the efforts towards stopping this vicious cycle and creating societies resilient to violent extremism and terrorism.

Mr. President,

Addressing the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility of the international community. With the aforementioned understanding, I would like to highlight several of our countermeasures and international contributions.

Japan has supported the Global SMART program by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), since its beginning in 2008, giving importance to the provision of technical assistance in countering synthetic drugs, including NPS and methamphetamine in the South East Asian region.

Japan hosted a first regional seminar on NPS in the Central Asian region in cooperation with the UNODC, CARICC (Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre), and the Government of Kazakhstan this February. At the seminar, our expert from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare shared our national expertise and experience.

The National Police Agency of Japan hosts the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference every year since 1995 to facilitate exchange of views and information on synthetic drugs, and to enhance cooperation between national authorities.

Furthermore, the G7, presided by Japan this year, agreed to further strengthen its efforts on the issue of synthetic drugs, including NPS and methamphetamine.

This year, Japan contributed in total 18 million USD to the UNODC, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), in order to tackle the foreign terrorist fighters issue, violent extremism and to assist legislation and capacity building of counter terrorism in the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan and its surrounding countries. Japan also supports projects focusing on risk analysis of terrorism and organized crime as well as counter terrorist financing.

Mr. President,

In closing, I would like to reiterate Japan's commitment to achieve the goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. We believe that the three international drug conventions remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system. We highly appreciate the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the UNODC. Japan continues to support these bodies in fulfilling their important roles.

Thank you very much.