

As delivered

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kentaro Sonoura
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan (October 5th, 2016)**

Thank you chairman.

Ministers, Distinguished Colleagues and Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I should like to express my deepest gratitude to the European Union and Afghanistan for their entire efforts for today's conference.

Partnership between the international community and Afghanistan has evolved on the principle of mutual accountability and I welcome the ANPDF and the revised deliverables of the SMAF.

Japan highly values the United Nations' important role in Afghanistan. We would like to strengthen the partnership with Mr. Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Special Representative for Secretary General and head of UNAMA, and his team. As a token of this partnership, I would like to announce that Japan has decided to provide US\$5 million in response to the latest UN flash appeal for Afghan refugees, returnees and IDPs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are strongly concerned about worsening security situations in Afghanistan. Unless the situations improve, the outcome level of our development assistance will be greatly diminished. From this point of view, cooperation between President Dr. Ghani and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah is indispensable for the stability in Afghanistan.

People of the donor countries truly expect Afghanistan to solve on-going problems such as rampant corruption, delay in electoral reform and human rights situations. Japan strongly urges Afghanistan to achieve the SMAF targets, as Japan's Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe requested President Dr. Ghani.

Based on the principle of mutual accountability, the Government of Japan intends to continue assistance worth up to 40 billion Japanese yen per year during four years starting from 2017, in order to maintain the current level of Japan's assistance to Afghanistan in which the security assistance of US\$130 million per year will be secured.

Here, I would like to emphasize that the success of this conference depends on, not the amount of the pledge today, but whether or not Afghanistan will be able to realize self-reliance, to a degree where today's Brussels Conference can be the last occasion for the donors to announce multi-year pledging.

Also, outcome-oriented approach should be embraced. At Gamberi Desert, an irrigation project carried out by a Japanese doctor Tetsu Nakamura costs only US\$28.4 million and changed the Desert into green fields, which now sustains 600,000 people's life.

According to this pledge and the mutual accountability principle, Japan is determined to support Afghanistan during the next four years while working closely with the international community.

Thank you for your kind attention.

(End)