

The Third Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa
Speech by Mr. Shunsuke TAKEI, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
December 5, 2016

Your Excellency, Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal

Your Excellency, Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese
Abroad of the Republic of Senegal

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am honored to have an opportunity to discuss with you at this important forum as the representative of Japan. In recent years, security environment in Africa has evolved and it is an urgent need to fight against terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime including cybercrime, environmental degradation and humanitarian crisis. Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security has played an important role to gather wisdom of relevant stake holders to address such challenges in our coordinated way. Japan is glad to contribute to this third forum as we have done so in the first and the second. I would like to pay tribute to the organizers of the forum, especially the officials of the government of Senegal.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The year 2016 was a significant year for the Japan-Africa relationship. What particularly marked an opportunity for an even stronger rapport between the Land of the Rising Sun and the vibrant Africa was the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August, held in the continent for the first time. I myself went to Nairobi and witnessed the great success of the conference gathering more than 10,000 participants from both public and private sectors. It was a visible proof that TICAD process, underscoring spirit of ownership and partnership, has taken root in African soil and I was very delighted as a member of the delegation.

At TICAD VI, we forward on “Promoting social stability for shared prosperity” as one of three priority areas and had a lively discussion about related global issues beginning with terrorism, violent extremism, armed conflicts and climate change. The Nairobi Declaration adopted at TICAD VI reaffirmed our commitments to fight against violent extremism and advocated our determination to tackle security challenge in a comprehensive manner for the promotion of social stability.

As a concrete action for supporting African future generations, Japan announced its support for human resource development to about 9.6 million people, including vocational training to 50 thousand people and its contribution amounting to about 500 million US dollars which includes capacity building for border control and police activities. To counter climate change, Japan will implement various supports amounting to about 1.8 billion US dollars including providing training to 4,000 people.

This is about supporting “people”, source of African ownership, and creating enabling environment which allows people to fully realize potentiality.

We cannot overlook the importance of strengthening partnership. At TICADVI, I hosted a seminar on the “Japan-France Partnership for Africa”. Cooperation on African security is an important element in the Franco-Japanese partnership and our contribution to today’s forum is indeed a concrete example of this partnership.

As a member of the UN Security Council, together with Senegal, Japan has been proactively working for the international peace and security. Last July, Japan chaired an open debate on the theme of “Peacebuilding in Africa” with the participation of Foreign Minister Ndiaye. By presenting comprehensive and innovative approach, Japan contributed to raising interest of the international community on this issue.

In South Sudan, Japan Self-Defense Force has been working together for the peace and stability of the country with colleagues deployed from more than sixty countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and elsewhere under the UN blue flag.

We have been actively continuing our supports to enhance African peacekeepers capacity. This year, in Kenya twice, we have successfully implemented training for control and maintenance of heavy machinery operational training which is indispensable for rapid deployment of peacekeeping operations as a concrete step of the UN Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities. Japan also contributes to capacity building of peacekeepers through its support to the United Nations Signals Academy and Training Centre in Uganda. Furthermore, Japan has been assisting various activities of PKO training centers in the African continent and three years since 2013, more than 3,000 personnel for Peace Support Operations received training in the field of small weapon management, protection of civilians, gender and others.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the current world, no country alone can sustain its own peace and security. Japan upholds “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation and announces its will to contribute even more actively to international peace and security. We will continue to build cooperative relationships with you based on the twin principle of TICAD process; ownership and partnership. Let us further cooperate, hand in hand, for the promotion of peace and security in Africa and Security Council’s reform to rectify historical injustice.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing that today’s lively discussion will lead to an ever more enhanced cooperation for peace and security in Africa. Thank you for your attention.