

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Taro Kono,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**

at the Eighth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting
New York, September 20, 2017

Your Excellency Mr. Bort Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands,
Your Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of Kingdom of Morocco,
Honorable Ministers, and distinguished delegates,

【Current status】

●I have a strong sense of crisis over the frequent terrorist attacks occurring around the world recently. Following the ISIL sweeping operation in Iraq and Syria, foreign terrorist fighters have expanded their battle areas. This year alone in Europe, we saw serious terrorist attacks in London, Manchester and Barcelona. In Asia, a group claiming as "ISIL East Asia" occupied the city of Marawi in the Philippines.

●What is needed right now is the wisdom of the GCTF.

【International response of our country】

●At last year's G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan, the G7 leaders issued an Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and committed to the following actions. Firstly, to develop concrete counter-measures against terrorism including the use of Interpol database and passenger name records (PNR); secondly, to promote tolerance through dialogue to prevent violent extremism; thirdly, to confirm the importance of assisting capacity building in developing countries.

●This year, the G7 leaders reaffirmed this Action Plan and Japan has been steadily implementing the plan.

●Effective counter-terrorism requires mid- to long-term support to address the root-causes of terrorism in addition to immediate assistance. To this end, Japan has been assisting developing countries with particular attention to reinforcement of border security control, capacity building of law enforcement agencies, and the creation of a tolerant society through poverty alleviation, and educational and vocational support. Last September, Japan announced to provide 45 billion yen and help develop 2,000

counter-terrorism personnel over the next 3 years as comprehensive counter-terrorism cooperation in Asia. We have been steadily implementing these commitments.

●To counter violent extremism, Japan has newly launched unique projects. For example, we are supporting a research on the role of religious education in preventing violent extremism, which could be utilized in policy-making. Also, we are planning a project with UNWomen which will focus on the role of mothers in the context of radicalization of younger generations. The project intends to educate mothers of potential radicals or prevent radicalization of women themselves.

【International cooperation through the TOC Convention and other instruments】

●To strengthen international cooperation, Japan has become a State Party of UNTOC (UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) and its two supplementing protocols this year. We will cooperate more effectively with each State Party in investigation assistance and extradition. We will further strengthen international cooperation against transnational organized crimes including terrorism.

【Domestic counter-measures against terrorism】

●As to our domestic counter-terrorism measures, Japan is preparing for 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and we are further strengthening and accelerating various measures. For example, in order to prevent terrorists from obtaining effective arms, police authorities render guidance to private businesses that handle swords, firearms, explosives and chemical substances that can be used for making bombs.

【Efforts at GCTF】

● Finally, the GCTF provides a valuable opportunity for counter-terrorism policy-makers and experts to meet together and discuss strategic and practical aspects of counter-terrorism. The role of GCTF is evermore important to facilitate even closer cooperation.

●Last year, Japan provided 3.6 million dollars to the Global Fund on Community Action and Tolerance (GCERF) and has contributed to its activities.

●As a responsible member of the international community, Japan will continue to actively participate in the activities of the GCTF.

●Thank you for your attention.

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