

**Statement by Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Japan,
at the High-Level Event on Action for Peacekeeping**

(25 September 2018, Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters)

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Over the last 70 years, since the beginning of UN peacekeeping, the role of peacekeepers has expanded. To cope with the changes, H.E. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General has shown strong leadership toward the reform of UN peacekeeping. Japan supports such efforts and has endorsed the “Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN peacekeeping”.

Today, I will speak about two of Japan’s important peacekeeping efforts.

First, our area of focus is to enhance the capabilities of enablers of PKO missions. Improving the capabilities of enablers such as engineers, medical and signals personnel is crucial for the performance of peacekeeping missions.

In particular, infrastructure building by engineering units is crucial to ensure the mission’s mobility, the safety and security of peacekeepers, and the protection of civilians.

Since 2015, under the UN Triangular Partnership Project, Japan has provided training for the operation of heavy engineering equipment to peacekeepers from Africa. Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel have been

dispatched as instructors and have trained 211 personnel from 8 African countries. Most of the trainees from Kenya have been deployed to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and are said to be actively supporting the mission in the field.

Having succeeded in Africa, Japan has decided to contribute approximately \$35 million to expand the Project for the first time toward the countries of Asia and the surrounding regions, from which over 30 % of peacekeepers are deployed to missions. With consent from the concerned countries, we will send approximately 20 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel in November as instructors to conduct trial training for the operation of heavy engineering equipment in Vietnam.

Capacity building of medical personnel and units is also critical to securing the safety of peacekeepers. Japan will begin supporting the training of medical personnel under the Triangular Partnership Project.

The Triangular Partnership Project is an innovative approach which enables role-sharing among member states to achieve sustainable support for training. I would like to emphasize the significance of the paragraph which refers to the Project in the “Declaration of Shared Commitments” and I strongly encourage other member states to participate.

Second, we will expand our support for gender related issues. In order to protect women and children, it is important to increase women’s participation in the field and take appropriate measures for the prevention of sexual

violence. In collaboration with the UN, Japan will host a pilot training course in Tokyo this December for the capacity building of current and future Women's Protection Advisers.

Moreover, Japan will support the Female Military Officer's Course to promote the deployment of female personnel in peacekeeping, which is important from the perspective of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Japan would like to continue to appoint talented female officers to peacekeeping missions in the future.

Japan will continue to work closely with the UN and other member states in addressing the current challenges of UN peacekeeping. Moreover, Japan will make use of its strengths and continue to make concrete contributions to UN peacekeeping by enhancing capacity building and dispatching units and personnel.