

Speech by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko ABE at the fourth International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade

Honorable Chair and distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and respect for UK's leadership in hosting the fourth International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade.

I am greatly honored to participate in this important conference, as a member of the global community determined to combat international crime related to illegal wildlife trade.

Japan's Commitment

Today, I would like to present three major commitments made by the Japanese government in the area of illegal wildlife trade.

First, is our recent tightening of regulations in domestic trade in ivory and ivory products. I was delighted by the welcoming remarks on this legislative reform by the Duke of Cambridge last month, at the Opening Ceremony of the Japan House in London. Japan intends to continue enforcing controls on domestic trade in ivory and ivory products on par with other major countries, in order to assist the conservation of elephants.

Japan's second commitment is to assist range states in tackling anti-poaching measures for elephants. Affirming this stance, we hereby announce a new grant to enhance the ability to monitor and prevent poaching of elephants at the Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique.

Thirdly, Japan will increase collaboration with the global community to combat illegal wildlife trade. For example, we will co-host with the U.K. government in Southeast Asia, a capacity-building seminar on border controls to combat illegal wildlife and ivory trade. Moreover, we continue to cooperate with the Chinese relevant authorities including its customs to tighten border controls in order to combat illegal wildlife trade.

Conclusion

By faithfully implementing the above commitments, Japan would like to contribute in international efforts in combatting illegal wildlife trade.

Thank you for your attention.