

**Statement by H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the 2020 Afghanistan Conference in Geneva**

November 24, 2020

H.E. Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland,
H.E. Mr. Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan,
Excellencies,

Since 2001, Japan has actively contributed to reconstruction of Afghanistan, including through hosting pledging conferences on Afghanistan twice and providing assistance amounting to 6.8 billion USD. We are proud to have many Japanese figures who dedicated themselves to rebuilding this country: Madame OGATA Sadako and Dr. NAKAMURA Tetsu, who passed away last year, to name a few.

I vividly recall my visit to Afghanistan in 2002, when I saw clinics and schools undergoing restoration with our support. During my meetings with President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah, the then finance minister and foreign minister respectively, I was struck by their strong determination for reconstruction.

Japan welcomes the ongoing Afghanistan peace negotiations. For the negotiations to move forward, we call on all the concerned parties for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire. We strongly hope that the negotiations will lead to sustainable peace, and ensure the achievements of the nation-building in the past 19 years.

Japan continues to stand with the Afghan Government and its people. We will work on providing assistance from 2021 to 2024, maintaining the amount comparable to the past four years, which was 180 million USD per year. Moreover, with progress in the peace process, we are ready to consider additional support.

Afghanistan's own efforts are vital for its true self-reliance after the Transformation Decade. From this standpoint, it is important that the Afghan Government take on full responsibility to make progress on issues such as the rule of law and anti-corruption under the Afghanistan Partnership Framework; only then, can our assistance be provided.

We also welcome the formulation of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework II (ANPDF II) by the Afghan Government. Japan will continue its assistance with a focus on areas such as agriculture, rural development, education, health and infrastructure, to boost the economic growth of this country. We will also continue to support the security sector, which is essential for ensuring stable implementation of our projects.

In closing, let me reiterate our determination to promote peace, prosperity and self-reliance of Afghanistan.

Thank you very much.

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