

**Statement by H.E. Mr. WASHIO Eiichiro,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel
19 March, 2021**

Mr. Chair,

It is a great honor for me to represent the Government of Japan within the Coalition, for the first time at the ministerial level since Japan's joining the Coalition last year.

Significant progress has been made toward peace in the Sahel region, as witnessed at the recent G5 Sahel Summit. Nonetheless, the region is still facing complex challenges. Terrorist movements have shown no sign of waning. COVID-19 has caused tremendous socio-economic impacts on people's lives in the region.

Overcoming this multi-dimensional crisis warrants a holistic approach. In light of a "civilian surge", it is indispensable to build strong and reliable state institutions that are able to sustain peace and protect people.

From this perspective, Japan's Foreign Minister Motegi took the opportunity of his recent visits to Africa to reaffirm Japan's resolve to support African-led peace building efforts under the banner of its New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa, or NAPSA.

Launched at TICAD 7 in Yokohama in 2019, NAPSA aims to address the root causes of conflict and terrorism through supporting institution building. Japan's support for PKO training centers in Africa, including the EMP (Ecole de maintien de la paix) in Bamako, is part of that effort. Japan also extends assistance for human resources development in the areas of police and justice and provides equipment such as patrol vehicles.

NAPSA helps build resilient and inclusive local communities as well. Guided by the principle of human security, my Government just recently decided to finance a new package of humanitarian aid and of development assistance in favor of G5 Sahel countries in the amount of about 80 million US dollars.

Mr. Chair,

The Coalition provides a useful platform to regenerate the humanitarian-development-security nexus into action, bringing together various efforts made by G5 Sahel countries and international partners. As a member of the Coalition, Japan is committed to making contributions under NAPSA in the Sahel region, toward TICAD 8 next year.

Thank you for your attention.

(END)