

Statement by H.E. Mr. ODAWARA Kiyoshi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the Ministerial Meeting on Haiti

January 21, 2022

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

Good morning.

I am ODAWARA Kiyoshi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is my honor to participate in this meeting which has brought together many relevant countries and international organizations in order to contribute to the stability of Haiti. I would like to pay tribute to Minister Joly and the Canadian government for holding this event.

Japan and Haiti are partners who share the same basic values. Taking into account the humanitarian situation, Japan has cooperated with Haiti in various fields such as health, education, food, and disaster risk management aimed at strengthening the country's social infrastructure. After the earthquake that struck the western part of the country last August, Japan provided emergency relief goods and extended Emergency Grant Aid of 3.25 million US dollars through the WFP, the IOM, UNICEF and the IFRC. Meanwhile, to fight against the pandemic we have provided Haiti with medical and cold chain equipment and have extended cooperation through UNDP and UNOPS with the purpose of strengthening the country's health and medical system.

Immediately after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, Japan dispatched the Self-Defense Forces to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for three years, and also provided various types of assistance for Haiti's stability by disbursing more than 320 million US dollars for reconstruction and development programs in the fields of health, education, agriculture, food security, and disaster risk reduction.

As for medium- and long-term assistance for the sake of economic stability, we are currently constructing two bridges in Port-au-Prince. I hope that promoting and smoothing the logistics situation will serve to develop “quality infrastructure” endowed with security and durability, and thereby contribute to invigorating the Haitian economy.

The urgent challenge that Haiti is facing is to regain security. To that end, we need immediate action to enhance the Haitian National Police (HNP). In this regard, Japan has provided the HNP with four fire trucks and three ambulances. Given that not only better equipment but also an improved working environment will be effective in enhancing the HNP’s operations, the Japanese government has approved a project to provide housing for police officers.

Ensuring the stability and security of Haiti is a prerequisite for organizing free, fair and transparent elections. Japan extended assistance in order to facilitate previous elections through international organizations and provided election kits. We will continue to consider what type of assistance can be implemented to help the political process in the future.

International cooperation and joint efforts are indispensable for the stability of Haiti. I sincerely hope that, through this meeting, cooperation for peace and stability will be further strengthened not only for Haiti but also for the whole region.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.