

Statement by Mr. NOGUCHI Yasushi,
Assistant Minister, Ambassador,
Director-General, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
on the occasion of the ministerial-level side event at UNGA HLW
“Addressing the Urgent Security Situation in Haiti.”

Good Morning.

First of all, I'd like to extend our appreciation to the Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and all those concerned for holding this ministerial-level event on the issue of Haiti.

Our appreciation also goes to Ms. Salvador (María Isabel SALVADOR), Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, for her dedicated work as the head of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).

Haiti is now at a crossroads towards restoring its stability. Deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Haiti has reached unprecedented levels, due to increased violence and criminal activities such as kidnapping by gangs. We should rapidly mobilize our unified action by the international community in response to the requests of the Haitian government and people.

We welcome the unanimous adaption of the UN Security Council resolution this July to extend the mandate of BINUH. We also welcome Kenya's announcement that it considers serving as the lead nation for a Multinational Security Support mission (MSS). Given the dire security situation in Haiti, the rapid and effective deployment of the MSS is of the utmost importance.

Japan, on its part, will actively engage with the international community as to how we can support the MSS. We will also contribute constructively in the discussions at the Security Council to contribute to the peace and security in Haiti, the region and beyond, including the designation of additional sanctions against gangs and those who support them.

Japan believes that, in parallel with the efforts for rapid deployment of the MSS, it is also essential to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police (HNP) and to provide humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people. In light of the worsening situation in Haiti, Japan has contributed 3 million US dollars to “the Joint Programme” in support of HNP and provided humanitarian assistance to counter the cholera outbreak as well as food assistance. Japan's contribution to support Haiti, since September last year, has amounted to 12 million US dollars in total.

Japan, as the G7 Presidency, a member of the UN Security Council and a long-standing partner of Haiti, will actively contribute to restoring stability in Haiti.

To ensure Haiti's medium- and long-term stability, it is also indispensable to normalize the political situation by holding free, fair, and transparent elections, and to stabilize the economic crisis.

In this regard, we expect progress in dialogues to reach a comprehensive political agreement with a view to conducting elections as early as possible, when security conditions are met. We will also continue to support efforts to build the foundations for Haiti's economic and social development.

Finally, I sincerely hope that through this event, we can further strengthen our cooperation for peace and stability in Haiti, as well as in the region as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.