

Statement by State Minister for Foreign Affairs
H. E. Mr. FUJII Hisayuki
At the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance
the Humanitarian Response in Gaza
2 December 2024

Distinguished Ministers and colleagues,

First of all, Japan commends Egypt for its vital role in improving the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and pursuing a ceasefire.

More than a year has passed since the brutal terror attacks by Hamas on October 7th. Gaza is now in ruins, and the number of victims continues to grow. It is our shared responsibility to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe.

Japan renews its demand for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the unconditional release of all hostages, and a significant expansion of humanitarian assistance.

Even at this very moment, schools, hospitals, refugee camps, and UN facilities in Gaza are being attacked and destroyed. Countless people are in despair.

All parties must comply with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access must be guaranteed. Starvation must not become a weapon of war.

The ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon is a major step forward for regional stability. Japan urges all parties to fully implement the agreement and hopes that this will create momentum that leads to a ceasefire in Gaza as well.

While we struggle to end the humanitarian nightmare in Gaza as soon as possible, we must also look beyond.

On the “day after”, enormous challenges lie ahead. In October this year, the UNDP issued a report, which says the impacts of the conflict have set back development in Gaza by as much as 69 years. This is a shocking but probably undeniable reality that threatens the future of Palestinians for generations to come.

Therefore, the international community needs to work together from now to stabilize and rebuild Gaza immediately after the conflict.

Since October 7th, Japan has provided approximately \$130 million in humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. We are working tirelessly for a new aid package, including additional financial support for the PA, rubble removal, unexploded ordnance disposal, and aid for the health, education, and energy fields.

In this regard, UNRWA is the backbone of all humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip and beyond. While UNRWA should continue to ensure its neutrality, the Agency must not be prevented from effectively fulfilling its mandate.

Finally, the only realistic solution to the conflict is the peaceful coexistence of Israel and Palestine, and Japan expresses its unwavering support for the two-state solution.

Japan welcomes the establishment of the Global Alliance to advance the two-state solution led by Saudi Arabia and the EU and is ready to continue to play a necessary role. I thank you.