

**Statement by H.E. Mr. AKAHORI Takeshi**  
**Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**  
**at the GCERF (Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund)**  
**Replenishment Conference**  
**25 September 2025 at German House, New York**

His Excellency Dr. Johann Wadephul, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany,

Her Excellency Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Minister delegate in charge of the Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation, Republic of Chad,

Ms. Julia Monar, Director-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office,

Mr. Stefano Manservisi, GCERF Governing Board Chair,

Dr. Khalid Koser, GCERF Executive Director,

Distinguished Delegates,

We are grateful for the convening of this GCERF Replenishment Conference. We particularly commend Germany and Chad's initiative as co-host.

Guided by our firm resolve to tolerate no form of violent extremism or terrorism, Japan has consistently collaborated with other countries, the United Nations, and international organizations like GCERF. Examples include Japan-Germany cooperation in the Sahel region, the Japan-U.S.-Australia Counter-Terrorism Working Group, and Japan-France counter-terrorism cooperation.

GCERF's activities align with Japan's policy of strengthening civil society and local communities, particularly by focusing on the roles of women and youth. Japan values its partnership with GCERF and has cumulatively contributed approximately 9.2 million US dollars to date. Last year, Japan contributed 500,000 US dollars to support the launch of a pilot project in Ghana which aims to mitigate the risk of violent extremism spreading from the Sahel region

Japan places particular importance on peace and stability in Africa. At the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) successfully held last month, we also addressed peace and stability under the theme of “Co-create Innovative Solutions with Africa.” There was strong consensus that regional peace and stability form the foundation for sustainable development, that addressing root causes of vulnerability such as poverty is essential for lasting stability, and that empowering youth and women is crucial.

We were particularly delighted to welcome Dr. Koser, representing GCERF, to TICAD9. Foreign Minister IWAYA and Dr. Koser exchanged views on the importance of addressing the root causes of violent extremism through building community resilience and investing in grassroots initiatives. They agreed to advance cooperation between GCERF and Japan in Africa. Japan aims to strengthen cooperative ties with Africa hand in hand with GCERF.

Japan supports the geographical expansion of GCERF activities in the Indo-Pacific region. Japan is confident that GCERF can contribute better to eradicate extremism through partnerships with new member countries in this region.

Japan sought cooperation from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, which has long been engaged in peacebuilding activities, with countering violent extremism primarily in Asia as a central pillar of its work.

We are happy that last December, the Foundation joined GCERF's Governing Board. In Bangladesh and Indonesia, the Foundation has a proven track record in de-radicalization and social reintegration initiatives developed in collaboration with local communities and experts. The Foundation is also providing advisory support for the project “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Indonesian Foreign and Domestic Terrorists” funded by Japan's contribution. With the cooperation of the Sasakawa Foundation, arrangements are underway to hold the GCERF Board meeting in Tokyo next year, which will be the first Board meeting in the Asian region. We are also happy that Professor KONO Takeshi from Toyo Eiwa University, joined the Independent Review Panel.

Currently, Japan is seeking possibilities to develop new projects for next year's cooperation with GCERF

Japan will continue to advance cooperation in countering violent extremism across various regions, including Africa and the Indo-Pacific, while broadly collaborating with diverse partners such as international organizations, the private sector, academia, and in particular, GCERF members.

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