



**Statement by Mr. KAIHARA Kentaro
Ambassador in Charge of UN Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the Ministerial Meeting of
the UN Group of Friends of Mediation,
24 September 2026**

Thank you, Chair. I wish to thank Finland and Türkiye for their leadership in convening this meeting.

We are witnessing a rise in conflicts and tensions worldwide. In these challenging times, mediation is a key tool for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

As the United Nations undertakes necessary reforms, peaceful settlement of disputes, including mediation, as enshrined in Chapter VI of the UN Charter, must remain a core function of this organization. We expect the next Secretary-General to continue to play a responsible role in this regard. At the same time, mediation is inherently collaborative and requires strong partnerships.

As Prime Minister TAKAICHI stated in her address at the General Debate two days ago, Japan stands ready to do its part. In March, Japan established the International Peace Mediation Unit to enhance capacity to prevent, respond, and de-escalate conflicts and link mediation to lasting peace. Our approach is rooted in Human Security and capacity-building for resilient, human-focused institutions and it proceeds in partnership with the UN, regional and local partners.

Japan highly values the platform provided by the Group of Friends of Mediation and looks forward to both learning from this forum and contributing to its ongoing discussions. In this spirit, this year Japan is implementing a new financial contribution to support UN-ASEAN partnership and cooperation, with a view to reinforcing the foundations of the UN's approach to Southeast Asia.

Japan is firmly committed to contributing to global peace and stability through robust international cooperation. By working together, we can make mediation more effective and contribute to building a more peaceful and sustainable world.

I thank you.