

Chair's Summary
“Senior Official-Level Meeting on Human Security”

23 March 2007

9:00 to 16:00

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Tokyo

I. INTRODUCTION

“The Senior Official-Level Meeting on Human Security” (SOM-HS) was held on 23 March 2007 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Tokyo. Ambassador Koji Tsuruoka, the Director-General for Global Issues, acted as the Chair of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 countries including Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan. Representatives from seven international organizations, namely the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the European Union (EU), were also in attendance.

The concept of SOM-HS was proposed by Japan as an initiative to raise international support for the concept of human security. In October 2006, Japan hosted the “Friends of Human Security” (FHS) Meeting in New York, in order to provide an informal open-ended forum to seek a common understanding of the concept and explore collaborative efforts for mainstreaming it in United Nations activities. While the benefits of the FHS Meeting were evident, such as formulating a general understanding on ways to follow up on the human security paragraph of the World Summit Outcome, Japan felt that FHS should be complemented by additional dialogue in order to seek a larger number of participants to its future meetings. This was how the plan of holding SOM-HS emerged.

II. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the opening session, Ambassador Yukio Takasu in Charge of Human Security (Japan) made a lead-off presentation on the concept of human security. In his presentation, Ambassador Takasu emphasized the necessity to promote collaboration of various human security-related initiatives. Thereafter the entire meeting was chaired by Ambassador Tsuruoka.

The morning session focused on situations where human security is in immediate need under the state of emergency. Three representatives of UN Agencies, namely UNOCHA, UNHCR and WFP, made presentations on how human security can be practiced in humanitarian relief. Following these presentations, country representatives exchanged their views on human security. While some participants emphasized the importance of focusing on the issues related to conflicts and violence such as protection of children under conflicts, other participants expressed reservation towards narrowing the scope of human security to physical violence and acknowledged the benefits of the broader concept including the field of development and humanitarian assistance, as exercised by UN agencies in support of vulnerable people. Many participants stressed the evolving nature of the human security concept.

The lunch session addressed the issue of human security needs in the transition period from humanitarian relief to development. Presentations were made by representatives of UNDP, International Peace Cooperation Headquarters of the Cabinet Office of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Each representative explained how the concept of human security can be applied to the transition period from emergency relief to development in cases such as early recovery, UN Peacekeeping and assistance to Africa.

In the afternoon session, following the presentation made by UNICEF and UNFPA on their activities related to sustaining community development and tackling infectious diseases and gender issues, the chair invited participants to an open-ended discussion. Participants touched upon significant features of human security as being comprehensive and multi-sector and emphasized that humanitarian relief and development efforts should not be fragmented. Other participants pointed out the importance of the linkage between protection and empowerment of the individuals.

There were comments stressing the need to highlight the concept of human security in the international efforts to achieve the MDGs. Some participants pointed out the issue of focusing on women and children through the concept, such as the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women and peace and security”. Finally, many participants commented that the Civil Society/NGOs play important roles in extending assistance to the people and communities who are the primary focus of human security.

III. CLOSING

At the closing session, Ambassador Takasu announced that the discussions as SOM-HS will be carried on at the second “Friends of Human Security” Meeting that would be held on the 20th of April in New York, and emphasized that, at the second Friends meeting, countries and international organizations will further deliberate on how mainstreaming the concept can be made under the crisis situations, in MDGs implementation as well as in fora such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the UN Development Framework. Ambassador Takasu proposed to confer at the second Friends Meeting about how to discuss the notion of human security at the General Assembly while expressing reservations on taking immediate actions for drafting a resolution on the definition of the concept.

In closing the meeting, Ambassador Tsuruoka expressed satisfaction with the lively discussions that took place at the meeting and hoped that participants of SOM-HS will join the second Friends Meeting in New York.

Senior Official-Level Meeting on Human Security

List of Participants

Japan

H.E. Mr. Yukio Takasu, Ambassador in charge of Human Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

H.E. Mr. Koji Tsuruoka, Ambassador, Director-General for Global Issues, MOFA

Mr. Hiroshi Oe, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, MOFA

Mr. Takeshi Osuga, Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, MOFA

Mr. Masahiko Kiya, Director, International Peace Cooperation Division, MOFA

Ms. Asako Okai, Director, Humanitarian Assistance Division, MOFA

Mr. Toshiro Ozawa, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office

Mr. Tsuneo Kurokawa, Director General, Regional Department IV (Africa), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Mr. Seiichi Koike, Senior Assistant to Director General, Planning and Coordination Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Australia

Mr. Allan McKinnon, Minister, Australian Embassy in Japan

Canada

Ms. Adèle Dion, Director-General, Human Security and Human Rights Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

France

Mr. Emmanuel Besnier, First Secretary, Embassy of France in Japan (Observer)

India

H.E.Mr. Ajai Malhotra, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Indonesia

Ms. Wiwiek Setyawati Firman, Director for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Ms. Ourina Ritonga, Head of Section for Humanitarian Affairs, Directorate for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs (Observer)

Mexico

Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Chief of Staff of Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights

Mr. Alejandro Alba Fernandez, Diplomatic Attache, Political Affairs (Observer)

Singapore

Ms. Jo-Phie Tang, Assistant Director, International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Slovenia

H.E. Mr. Matjaž Kovačič, Ambassador, Chief of Division, Division for International Organizations and Human Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Thailand

Dr. Kriangsak Kittichaisaree, Director-General of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Viet Nam

Mr. Dao Viet Trung, Assistant Minister

Ms. Lai Thi To Tam, First Secretary, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Japan (Observer)

EU

Mr. Fabrice Vareille, Counsellor, Head of Political and Economic Section, Delegation of the European Commission to Japan

UN-OCHA

Mr. Rashid Khalikov, Director, OCHA New York

Ms. Mehrnaz Mostafavi, Programme Officer, OCHA Human Security Unit (Observer)

UNDP

Ms. Kathleen Cravero, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Mr. Kazunori Hosoya, Deputy Director, UNDP Tokyo Office (Observer)

Ms. Mizuho Yokoi, Programme Manager, UNDP Tokyo Office (Observer)

UNFPA

Ms. Mari Simonen, Deputy Executive Director

Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami, Director, UNFPA Tokyo Office (Observer)

Ms. Chizuru Iwata, UNFPA Tokyo Office (Observer)

UNHCR

Mr. Saburo Takizawa, Representative in Japan

Ms. Gesche Karrenbrock, Deputy Director of Division of Operational Services (Observer)

Mr. Hajime Kishimori, Deputy Representative, UNHCR Representation in Japan (Observer)

UNICEF

Mr. Alan Court, Director of Programme Division

Mr. Dan Rohrmann, Director, UNICEF Tokyo (Observer)

Mr. Kunihiro Hirabayashi, Senior Programme Officer, UNICEF Tokyo (Observer)

WFP

Mr. Stanlake Samkange, Director, Strategy, Policy and Programme Support Division

Ms. Ikuko Yamaguchi, Donner Relations Officer, WFP Office in Japan (Observer)