Chapter 3

Diplomacy to Defend National Interests through Co-creation with the World

Section 1	Efforts for Peace and Stability of Japan and the International Community	194
Section 2	Japan's International Cooperation (Development Cooperation and Response to Global Issues)	270
Section 3	Economic Diplomacy	296
Section 4	Efforts to Promote Understanding and Trust in Japan	319





Efforts for Peace and Stability of Japan and the International Community

1 National Security Initiatives

(1) Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Today, Japan's security environment is as severe and complex as it has ever been since the end of World War II. Military build-up, including nuclear and missile capabilities, is advancing rapidly around Japan. Further reinforcement of military capabilities and acceleration of military activities are becoming more prominent, and unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force are occurring more frequently than ever before. A historic shift in the power balance and geopolitical competition are intensifying particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, with some countries in the international community attempting to change the existing international order based on their own historical views and values. Russia started its aggression against Ukraine in February 2022. In the maritime domain, there have been cases where a country unilaterally claims its entitlements or takes actions, based on assertions that are incompatible with the existing international order. These have generated undue infringement of the principles such as freedom of navigation and overflight in the high seas.

Under these circumstances, grey zone situations over territories, cross-border cyberattacks on critical civilian infrastructures, and information warfare in the cognitive dimension through information manipulation, including spread of disinformation, are constant occurrences in the international community, thereby further blurring the boundary between contingency and peacetime. Furthermore, the scope of security has expanded to include those fields previously considered non-military such as economic, technological and others, and thus the boundary between military and non-military fields has become blurred. In addition, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and

ballistic missiles, as well as responding to international terrorism, continue to pose serious challenges to the international community. In light of these developments, it is now necessary to strengthen efforts related to security policies across diverse sectors.

In December 2022, Japan formulated a new National Security Strategy (NSS), along with the National Defense Strategy and Defense Buildup Program. While the NSS sets forth a wide range of security measures (fundamental reinforcement of defense capabilities, including possession of counterstrike capabilities; reinforcement of comprehensive defense architecture; consideration of revisions to the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology and its Implementation Guidelines; consideration of the introduction of active cyber defense; significant reinforcement of maritime security capabilities and expansion of systems; promotion of economic security policies, among others), it establishes diplomatic capability first among the main elements of comprehensive national power for Japan's national security. Based on this document, Japan will continue to develop a strong diplomacy, to prevent crises before they occur, and to proactively create a peaceful and stable international environment.

Furthermore, the NSS also notes that the transfer of defense equipment and technology overseas serves as a key policy instrument to create a desirable security environment for Japan, and to provide assistance to countries that are subject to aggression in violation of international law. From this perspective, the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology and its Implementation Guidelines were partially revised in December 2023 to enable the transfer of defense equipment and technology in a wide range of fields, and at the same time, to conduct more strict examinations on transfers.

(2) Enforcement of the "Legislation for Peace and Security," and Initiatives Based on the Legislation

In order to adapt to the changes in the security environment surrounding Japan and to secure the lives and peaceful livelihood of its people, it is important to advance vibrant diplomacy to create a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international environment. In addition, it is important to enable seamless responses to any situation, and to contribute even more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community based on the principle of international cooperation. To achieve these objectives, the "Legislation for Peace and Security" took effect in March 2016.

After the enforcement of the legislation, Japan has been engaged in various forms of cooperation with the U.S. and other relevant countries. The Japan-U.S. Alliance is stronger than it has ever been, and Japan is contributing further to peace and stability in the region and the international community. For example, from 2017 to the end of 2022, Japan escorted the U.S. Forces and other troops a total of 110 times on occasions such as joint exercises, intelligence and surveillance operations, including ballistic missile warnings. In November 2022, Japan also conducted escort operations in cooperation with the U.S. and Australia for the first time. In addition, Japan has also expanded and enhanced activities relating to cooperation on international peace and cooperation, such as UN Peacekeeping operations (PKO).

Since the enforcement of the "Legislation for Peace and Security," Japan has been deepening cooperation not only with the U.S., but also with various other countries. Going forward, MOFA will strive to maintain and develop diplomatic relations that further advance mutual cooperation with other countries, with a view to securing the lives and peaceful livelihood of the people of Japan.

(3) Territorial Integrity

Maintaining territorial integrity is a fundamental responsibility of the Government. Japan's policy to resolutely protect its land, sea and air space remains unchanged. Japan will continue to maintain its stance of responding firmly but in a calm manner. Based on this, the relevant government agencies are working

in close cooperation to advance measures to ensure a seamless and adequate response to any form of unlawful acts. At the same time, the Government of Japan engages in proactive efforts to promote awareness of Japan's position on territorial integrity among the international community, making use of the contacts and knowledge of its diplomatic missions overseas.

2 Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

(1) Overview of Japan-U.S. Security Relationship

Under the security environment surrounding Japan, which is becoming increasingly severe at an ever more rapid pace, it is indispensable to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and to enhance the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance not only for the peace and security of Japan, but also for the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Japan and the U.S. are further enhancing their deterrence and response capabilities under the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation ("The Guidelines") and the Legislation for Peace and Security. Through such efforts, Japan and the U.S. have been expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including missile defense, cyberspace, space and information security. While advancing these efforts, Japan and the U.S. have concurrently been working closely on the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma and of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam and other locations in order to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa.

(2) Japan-U.S. Security and Defense Cooperation in Various Fields

An Overview of Japan-U.S. Security and Defense Cooperation

The Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, which were formulated in 2015, reviewed and updated the general framework and policy direction of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation. Through the Alliance Coordination Mechanism (ACM) and other efforts

established under these Guidelines, Japan and the U.S. have been sharing information closely, establishing a common understanding of the situation, and engaging in "seamless" responses and efforts from peacetime to contingencies. From its inauguration till now, the Biden administration has consistently made it clear that it places great importance on the Japan- U.S. Alliance.

In January, the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (Japan-U.S. "2+2") was convened in Washington, D.C. (U.S.) in a timely manner, immediately after the release of strategic documents by the two countries. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Hayashi and Defense Minister HAMADA Yasukazu from the Japanese side, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin from the U.S. side. The two sides welcomed the release of their respective National Security Strategies and National Defense Strategies, and confirmed unprecedented alignment of their vision, priorities, and goals, and discussed measures to maximize Alliance deterrence and response capabilities under their strategies. On top of that, in the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in the same month, President Joseph Biden reiterated his unwavering commitment to the defense of Japan. The two leaders also welcomed the national security strategies of the two countries are aligned with each other and renewed their determination to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, including seeking to create synergies in the implementation of the strategies. In addition, they instructed to further deepen concrete consultations regarding Japan-U.S. cooperation on the

Japan-U.S. "2+2" (January 11, Washington, D.C., U.S.)

security front, taking into account the discussions at the Japan-U.S. "2+2."

At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in May, the two leaders reaffirmed the critical role that U.S. extended deterrence plays in ensuring the security of Japan as well as the peace and stability of the region, coupled with Japan's enhanced defense capabilities. President Biden reiterated the U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, backed by the full range of capabilities, including nuclear, and, in this context, the two leaders reaffirmed their intent to ensure full bilateral coordination throughout every phase of a developing situation. The two leaders then commended the robust and in-depth consultations on U.S. extended deterrence at the latest Japan-U.S. "2+2" and Extended Deterrence Dialogue (EDD) meetings, and reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening such consultations (See the Special Feature on page 197).

In 2023, Japan continued to engage in personnel exchanges with senior U.S. defense officials, including successive visits to Japan by Admiral James F. Caldwell Jr., Director of Naval Reactors in April; David H. Berger, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps in May; Secretary of Defense Austin in June; Michael M Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations in July; General Anthony J. Cotton, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM), General Eric M. Smith, Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in September; General



¹ Providing deterrence that a country possesses to its allies and partners.

SPECIAL FEATURE

What is Extended Deterrence?

In the vicinity of Japan, military buildups, including of nuclear weapons and missiles, are rapidly advancing, coupled with mounting pressures by unilaterally changing the status quo by force. North Korea intends to bolster its nuclear capabilities both in quality and in quantity at the maximum speed, and is rapidly developing its missile-related technologies. Russia continues to repeat words and actions that could be interpreted as threats of use of nuclear weapons in the context of its aggression against Ukraine, and further, has suspended the implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty) alongside other actions that go against arms control efforts to date. China has been extensively and rapidly enhancing its military power, including its nuclear and missile capabilities, without sufficient transparency. There are also movements toward cooperation between China and Russia, and between Russia and North Korea respectively. Amid this severe security environment, Japan is advocating a policy of further strengthening deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance including U.S. extended deterrence in its National Security Strategy (NSS) and other documents, in order to ensure the security of Japan.

"Deterrence" is comprehended as serving the function of discouraging aggression by making the other party clearly aware that it would suffer intolerable damage if it were to commit aggression, or recognize clearly that our side has the ability to physically deny attack by the aggressor. Accordingly, "extended deterrence" generally refers to extending the deterrence of a certain country to its allies and partners. In this regard, Japan is provided with extended deterrence by its ally, the U.S.

"Deterrence capabilities" constitute not only nuclear, but also include response capabilities based on conventional forces. Using only conventional forces, it is difficult to deter an actor that is threatening to use nuclear weapons; in such cases, it is necessary to deter that actor with nuclear capabilities. However, Japan is a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), upholds the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, and will therefore not possess any nuclear weapons on its own. Under such a premise, and in the face of the reality of security threats to Japan, such as those of nuclear weapons, U.S. extended deterrence, including through nuclear weapons, is indispensable.

The U.S. has, on many occasions, affirmed its commitment to defend Japan under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and to extend deterrence to Japan through a full range of capabilities, including nuclear.

Japan and the U.S. have also engaged in the close exchange of wide-ranging views on a regular basis on various mat-

ters related to the deterrence policies of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. In particular, in the working-level Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue that has been held on a regular basis since 2010, Japan and the U.S. hold in-depth discussions on extended deterrence and consult on measures to further enhance relevant bilateral cooperation. In 2023, the two governments engaged in extensive discussions in the U.S. in June and in Japan in December, including through table-top exercises. On each occasion, the respective delegations had the opportunity to observe important troops and defense equipment for deterrence, such as B-2 strategic bombers in the U.S. and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade in Sasebo, Japan.

Furthermore, in May 2022, Prime Minister Kishida and President Biden emphasized the further strengthening of U.S. extended deterrence, and concurred on communicating more closely between the two countries including at the ministerial level. In light of this, at the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (Japan-U.S. "2+2") held in January 2023, Japan and the U.S. took time to have in-depth discussions on extended deterrence as one of the agenda items. In this way, the Japan-U.S. Alliance is steadily deepening in the aspect of extended deterrence as well. Going forward, Japan will continue to further strengthen bilateral dialogues at various levels, and to further enhance relevant concrete cooperation, with a view to maintaining and strengthening U.S. extended deterrence.



Tour of B-2 strategic bombers during the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue (June, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, U.S.; Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



Discussions at the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue (December, Japan)

Charles Q. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. in November; and General Charles A. Flynn, Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific and Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command in December. In August, there was also a visit to Japan by Representative Robert Wittman, U.S. Congressman, and his delegation.

In accordance with the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in May, discussions within the EDD on extended deterrence were further intensified. The EDD was established in 2010, and as a part of Japan-U.S. security and defense cooperation, it provides an opportunity for the two governments to discuss regional security, Alliance defense posture, nuclear and missile defense policy, and arms control issues, to engage in an in-depth exchange of views on means to sustain and strengthen extended deterrence, which is at the core of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and to deepen mutual understanding on alliance deterrence. At the EDD meeting held at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri in June, the U.S. side reiterated its commitment to increase the visibility of U.S. strategic assets in the region. The two sides also concurred to continue to explore avenues to deepen Alliance cooperation through improved information sharing, training, and exercises, including the use of table-top exercises, to further prepare the Alliance to defend against potential attacks and deter nuclear employment. Both sides also pledged to improve coordination and strengthen the Alliance's capabilities and posture to adversary missile threats. As a part of the meeting, the delegations experienced a B-2 flight simulator, and toured a B-2 strategic bomber and decommissioned Minuteman II launch control center. At the EDD meeting hosted by Japan in December, the two sides shared assessments of the regional security environment, and reviewed Alliance conventional and U.S. nuclear capabilities contributing to regional deterrence and highlighted the importance of optimizing the Alliance's force posture and activities to bolster deterrence effectiveness. They also discussed strategic arms control and risk reduction approaches in response to nuclear risks that are becoming increasingly challenging and complex as diversification and expansion of regional actors' nuclear arsenals are advancing. In addition, the delegations visited the JGSDF's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade in Camp Ainoura and Sakibe, which plays an important role in defense and deterrence

of the Southwestern Islands of Japan. In both the meetings held in June and December, agencies from both sides conducted table-top exercises, which have regularly been included in the EDD meeting agenda to discuss ways to coordinate Alliance deterrence efforts. Through such multilayered initiatives, Japan will continue to promote security and defense cooperation with the U.S., and to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance.

B Missile Defense

Japan has been making steady efforts to develop and engage in the production of the Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system while continuing cooperation with the U.S., including on the steady implementation of joint development and joint production of the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3 Block IIA) since 2006, and Japan is fully prepared to protect the lives and property of its citizens from the threat of ballistic missiles to Japan under any circumstances. Japan is also advancing efforts to effectively address new aerial threats, including hypersonic weapons. At the Japan-U.S. "2+2" held in January, based on the progress of joint analysis on counter-hypersonic technology, the Ministers concurred to begin joint research on important elements including advanced materials and hypersonic testbeds, and also concurred to begin discussion on potential joint development of a future interceptor. Based on this, the two countries conducted a review and consequently announced during the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in August that they have decided to initiate the joint development of Glide Phase Interceptors (GPI).

C Cyberspace

At the Japan-U.S. "2+2" meeting convened in January, Japan and the U.S. concurred to intensify collaboration to counter increasingly sophisticated and persistent cyber threats. In light of the outcomes of the Japan-U.S. "2+2" meeting and the necessity for cross-governmental efforts by both Japan and the U.S., the 8th Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue was convened in May, where participants held discussions on a wide range of issues regarding Japan-U.S. cooperation on cyber-related matters, including cyber policies in both countries, cooperation in international areas and bilateral cooperation. Stakeholders from

both sides engage in discussions, through frameworks such as the Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue, on bilateral cooperation across a wide range of areas. Furthermore, the two sides are continuing to cooperate on matters related to cyberspace, including promoting bilateral policy coordination, strengthening systems and capabilities, and exchanging incident information, while taking into consideration Japan's cyber security strategy and the cyber policies of the U.S.

Space

At the Japan-U.S. "2+2" convened in January, Japan and the U.S. committed to deepening cooperation on space capabilities, and considered that attacks to, from, or within space, present a clear challenge to the security of the Alliance, and affirmed such attacks, in certain circumstances, could lead to the invocation of Article V of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Japan and the U.S. are continuing to cooperate on space security, including through mutual exchanges of information in the field of Space Situational Awareness and others, as well as cooperation on hosted payloads (mission instruments loaded onto other entities' satellites).

Information Security

Information security plays a crucial role in advancing cooperation within the context of the Alliance. Based on this perspective, both countries continue to hold discussions designed to enhance their cooperation regarding information security, the importance of which was affirmed at the Japan-U.S. "2+2" held in January.

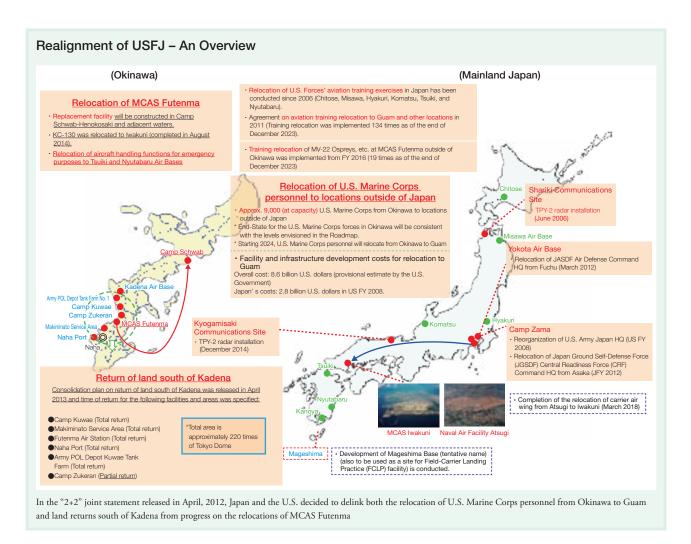
(3) Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan

While advancing the efforts described above, the Government of Japan will continue to make every effort to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, and to maintain the stable presence of U.S. Forces in Japan, by steadily implementing the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Henoko.

In the Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee ("2+2") released in January, the two sides confirmed the importance of accelerating bilateral work on these force realignment efforts. In the Statement,

Japan and the U.S. affirmed the need to optimize the Alliance force posture based on the improved operational concepts and enhanced capabilities, including the defense of the Southwestern Islands of Japan. They also confirmed that the forward posture of U.S. Forces in Japan should be upgraded to strengthen Alliance deterrence and response capabilities by positioning more versatile, resilient, and mobile forces with increased intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, anti-ship, and transportation capabilities. In line with such policy, Japan and the U.S. affirmed that the Japan-U.S. Roadmap for Realignment Implementation, as adjusted at the Japan-U.S. "2+2" in April 2012, will be readjusted so that the 3rd Marine Division Headquarters and the 12th Marine Regiment will remain in Okinawa and the 12th Marine Regiment will be reorganized into the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment by 2025. This effort will be carried out while maintaining the basic tenets of the 2012 Realignment Plan, with utmost consideration to the impacts on local communities. Japan and the U.S. also confirmed the importance of accelerating bilateral work on U.S. Force realignment efforts, including construction of relocation facilities and land returns in Okinawa, and the relocation of Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to Guam beginning in 2024.

In particular, the return of lands in Okinawa has been realized by completing various return projects based on the April 2013 "Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas in Okinawa," even after the return of a major portion of the Northern Training Area (NTA, approximately 4,000 hectares) in December 2017. The return of all areas indicated as "Immediate Return" under the Consolidation Plan was achieved with the return of a portion of the Facilities and Engineering Compound in Camp Zukeran in March 2020. The land near Samashita Gate at Futenma Air Station was also returned in December 2020, followed by the return of the laundry factory area of Makiminato Service Area (land along National Route No. 58) in May 2021. In May 2022, which marked the 50th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, Japan and the U.S. concurred to enable the public use of the Lower Plaza Housing Area of Camp Zukeran as a greenspace, ahead of its return to Japan, and the start of general use commenced in March 2024.



(4) Host Nation Support (HNS)

With a view to ensuring the effective operations of U.S. Forces in Japan amidst the growing severity of the security situation surrounding Japan, Japan bears a part of costs, such as the costs of Facility Improvement Programs (FIP), within the scope provided for under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). In addition, Japan has also borne the labor costs for U.S. Forces working in Japan, utilities costs, and training relocation costs, by concluding the Special Measures Agreements (SMAs) which set out special measures relating to the SOFA. Under the New SMA signed on January 7, 2022, and entered into force on April 1, it was decided that Japan will also bear the expenditures related to the procurement of training equipment and materials which will contribute, not only to the readiness of U.S. Forces in Japan but also to the enhancement of the interoperability between the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the U.S. Forces. Based on the SOFA and the New SMA, the Government of Japan will bear the HNS costs from FY2022 to FY2026. In consultations

on the New SMAs, as both parties concurred that the costs borne by Japan should be used to build a foundation upon which the Japan-U.S. Alliance will be further strengthened, the Japanese side decided to refer to this budget by a Japanese phrase that points to its goal of enhancing Alliance readiness and resiliency. During the effective period of the new SMAs (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027), the annual average budget for HNS is approximately 211 billion Japanese yen.

(5) Various Issues Related to the Presence of the U.S. Forces in Japan

To ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the stable stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan as the linchpin of these arrangements, it is important to mitigate the impact of U.S. Forces' activities on residents living in the vicinity and to gain their understanding and support regarding the stationing of U.S. Forces. The Government of Japan, in light of the requests from local communities, has

been making utmost efforts in areas such as the steadily implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship of 2015 and the Agreement on Cooperation with regard to Implementation Practices relating to the Civilian Component of the United States Armed Forces in Japan of 2017, preventing and responding to incidents and accidents involving U.S. Forces, abating the noise by U.S. Forces' aircraft, and dealing with environmental issues at U.S. Forces' facilities and areas. At the Japan-U.S. "2+2" convened in January 2023, Foreign Minister Hayashi requested the U.S. side to strengthen cooperation in matters related to the environment, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). As a result, in the Joint Statement of the Japan-U.S. "2+2", the two sides affirmed that they would enhance environmental cooperation.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is implementing various initiatives, including exchanges between U.S. Forces personnel and residents living near U.S. Forces' facilities and areas in Japan.

Since FY2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) have been implementing Student Educational Exchange and Dialogue (SEED) projects at the U.S.

Forces' facilities and areas in Japan. These projects provide an opportunity for Japanese and American junior high school and high school students to engage in cultural and educational exchanges at schools located within the U.S. Forces' facilities and areas, and have been implemented continuously in various parts of Japan with the cooperation of local governments and U.S. Forces in Japan (See the column on this page).

Particularly in Okinawa, where there is a concentration of U.S. Forces' facilities and areas, the "TOFU: Think of Okinawa's Future in the U.S." program is implemented to provide an opportunity for high school and university students from Okinawa to witness what Japan's alliance partner, the U.S., is truly like, and the role that Japan plays in the international community, as well as to promote mutual understanding between the two countries. Visits to the U.S. have not been implemented since FY2019 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but resumed in FY2022 with 40 participants, twice that of the usual number. The program served as an opportunity for participants to cultivate an international perspective, including visits to Washington, D.C. and New York, exchanges of opinions with key government officials in Tokyo and the respective cities in the U.S., and tours of government facilities.

COLUMN

Student Educational Exchange and Dialogue (SEED) Project

Since 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), has conducted exchange programs (Student Educational Exchange and Dialogue (SEED) project) for the

children of U.S. Forces personnel and local junior and high school students in communities that host U.S. Forces in Japan. By sowing the "SEED" for further cultural and educational exchanges, this program aims to nurture human resources who will take an active role in international society as well as to enhance mutual understanding between Japanese and American junior and senior high school students.

In 2023, the program was held at Yokota Air Base (Tokyo), Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni (Yamaguchi Prefecture), Kadena Air Base (Okinawa Prefecture), U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo (Nagasaki



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs HOSAKA Yasushi interacting with the participating students (October 22, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture)



Presentation of completion certificates by Ambassador in charge of Okinawan Affairs, MIYAGAWA Manabu, and DoDEA Pacific South District Superintendent, Dr. Melissa Hayes (October 15, Kadena City, Okinawa Prefecture)

Prefecture), U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka (Kanagawa Prefecture), Camp Zama (Kanagawa Prefecture), and Misawa Air Base (Aomori Prefecture). This column introduces the voices of both Japanese and U.S. students who participated in the program.

Luke A. Danjanic, EJ King Middle High School

The SEED event provided a fantastic opportunity to interact with my Japanese peers. Unlike formal settings such as school tours or games with strict rules during field trips, this event allowed for a more casual and open exchange. The activities fostered healthy discourse among peers and proved to be an effective bonding technique, though they might have been challenging for some students. The character design activity was my favorite, with each group presenting a unique character symbolizing the friendship between Japan and the U.S. It was fascinating to witness the diverse creations from an eleven-word prompt. Another enjoyable activity involved creating skits based on cultural differences between the U.S. and Japan. One group highlighted the contrasting approaches to ordering at a restaurant. In Japan, you shout out to call the waiter without consequence, while in the U.S., such an act might receive a disapproving look or worse. A highlight of the event was the opportunity to meet the mayor and the head of the Sasebo Board of Education. This encounter further solidified the bond between our two countries. It showcased that youth from both nations are willing to seek common ground to better our future.

EIYAMA Kanade, Ginowan Municipal Kakazu Junior High School

I participated in the exchange program held at Kadena Air Base in October, with my brother who is one year older. Although I had previously visited the air base with my parents for the annual festival and other events, I had never entered the living areas before, so I was looking forward to it while feeling a little anxious at the same time. I was a little nervous when our yellow school bus went through the air base's security, but there was such a wide range of events taking place that my anxiety quickly dissipated. My Halloween face paint did not come off at all, and faint traces of it remained on my face the next day. The food portions were huge, and the juice tasted like nothing I had ever tried before. Although there were many differences, such as the things that we find funny and the ways in which we write the alphabet (the letters "P" and "A"), I talked a lot with everyone. They talked to me in Japanese as I could not speak any English, and we drew funny pictures and laughed about them as well as talked about the anime that we like. We were similar yet different, and it felt strange yet fun. I think that there is much more we can learn and understand about different cultures through small things like these. Through my participation in this event, I think this was the first time I became aware of the existence of various countries. When it comes to intercultural understanding, I hope to broaden the horizons of my world further in the future without being bound by conventions.

(6) The United Nations Forces and U.S. Forces in Japan

Coincident with the start of the Korean War in June 1950, the UN forces were established in July of the same year based on the recommendation of UN Security Council resolution 83 in June. Following the cease-fire agreement concluded in July 1953, the United Nations Command (UNC) Headquarters was relocated to Seoul (South Korea) in July 1957, and UNC-Rear (UNC-R) was established in Japan. Established at Yokota Air Base, UNC-R currently has four military staff members including a stationed commander, as well as military attachés from nine countries who are stationed at embassies in Tokyo as liaison officers for the UN forces. Based on Article 5 of the Agreement Regarding the Status of the United Nations Forces in Japan, the UN forces in Japan may use the

U.S. Forces' facilities and areas in Japan to the minimum extent required to provide support for military logistics for the UN forces. At present, the UN forces in Japan are authorized to use the following seven facilities: Camp Zama, U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, U.S. Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Yokota Air Base, Kadena Air Base, MCAS Futenma and White Beach Area.

In July 2019, a joint board was held between the Government of Japan and UNC. The meetings saw discussions held over the situation on the Korean Peninsula, with the two sides reaching an agreement on notification procedures in case of unusual occurrences related to the UN forces in Japan. In October 2023, General Paul J. LaCamera (Commander, UNC/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea) paid a courtesy call to Foreign Minister Kamikawa. Foreign Minister Kamikawa expressed her

high appreciation for the surveillance activities against illegal ship-to-ship transfers by the UNC Sending States as well as the role played by Japan-U.S. Alliance and the trilateral coordination among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK for peace and stability in the region. She also stated that Japan looks forward to continuing the enhancement of the relationship with the UNC.

3 Global Security

(1) Regional Security

In the international community, a historical shift in the power balance, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, is occurring. In light of the numerous security challenges confronting this region, there is a need for Japan to cooperate with its allies and like-minded countries and others. In particular, it is more important than ever to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. There is also a need for Japan to fundamentally reinforce its own defense capabilities. At the same time, by actively strengthening bilateral and multilateral security cooperation with each country, Japan has been making efforts to realize a desirable regional security environment for Japan.

Japan and Australia concurred, at the leaders' and foreign ministerial levels, to continue strengthening cooperation in partnership with like-minded countries, with a view to further deepening the "Special Strategic Partnership" between the two countries and realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)." In August, the Japan-Australia Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), aimed at facilitating cooperative activities such as joint exercises, disaster relief, and other forms of cooperative activities between the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and Australian Defence Force, entered into force. Immediately after that, Japan and Australia conducted joint exercises under the RAA with reciprocal deployments of F-35 fighter jets between the two countries. At the Japan-Australia Leaders' Meeting and Japan-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in September, the two sides welcomed the implementation of joint exercises under the RAA and concurred on strengthening security cooperation, guided by the new Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation.² With regard to illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers³, the Australian Defence Force conducted monitoring and surveillance activities in the waters around Japan by their naval vessels in late May and from late October to mid-November, and by their aircraft from early February to early March as well as from late August to mid-September. The 5th Japan-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in December, during which the two sides exchanged views on broad topics, such as each country's cybersecurity strategy and policy, bilateral and multilateral cooperation including the UN, and capacity building support.

Japan and India held three summit meetings: during Prime Minister Kishida's visit to India in March, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May, and at the G20 New Delhi Summit in September. At these talks, Japan and India affirmed that they would work to further develop the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership." At the working level, the Fifth Japan-India Cyber Dialogue was held in September to exchange views on national cyber policies and cybersecurity strategies, current cyber threat landscape, 5G and Open RAN technology developments of 5G and Open RAN technology. Both sides also discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of capacity building support, as well as cooperation at the UN and among Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad). In September, the first-ever Joint Service Staff Talks between Japan and India were held, and both sides concurred on further advancing defense cooperation, which has until now focused on service-to-service cooperation, to a joint services level.

In relation to the Republic of Korea (ROK), after concurring on activating communication between their governments in a wide range of fields at the Japan-ROK Summit Meeting held in March, active dialogues were also held in the field of security, including the resumption of the Japan-ROK Security Dialogue in April after

² A document that sets out the direction for security and defense cooperation between Japan and Australia over the next 10 years, signed at the Japan-Australia Leaders' Meeting in October 2022.

³ In this context, "ship-to-ship transfers" refers to the transfers to or from North Korea-flagged vessels of any goods or items at sea, which UN Security Council resolution 2375 (adopted in September 2017) prohibits UN member states from facilitating or engaging in.

a five-year absence. Taking the opportunity of various occasions such as international conferences, talks were held between the leaders, foreign ministers, defense ministers, and heads of the national security agencies of Japan and the ROK, as well as Japan, the ROK, and the U.S., during which the countries affirmed their response to North Korea and close cooperation toward the realization of FOIP. Furthermore, in light of the Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Defense Ministerial Meeting held in June, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Defense Ministers' telephone call in September, and the Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Defense Ministerial Teleconference Meeting in November, the three countries conducted joint exercises (February, April, July, August, September, October, November) among other forms of cooperation, and are promoting further trilateral cooperation to address regional security issues. Based on the Joint Leaders' Statement issued by Japan, the U.S., and the ROK in December, the three countries commenced the full activation of a real-time DPRK missile warning data sharing mechanism and jointly established a multi-year trilateral exercise plan in December.

In relation to the UK, which is Japan's "global strategic partner," at the Japan-UK Summit Meeting held in May 2022, the two countries affirmed their agreement in principle to the Japan-UK Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), aimed at facilitating cooperative activities such as joint exercises, disaster relief activities, and other activities between the JSDF and the UK Armed Forces. In January 2023, Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Sunak signed the RAA at the Japan-UK Summit Meeting and concurred on further deepening security and defense cooperation. The Japan-UK RAA entered into force in October, and was applied for the first time to the field training exercise, Vigilant Isles 23, between the Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) and the British Army, conducted in November in Japan. In December 2022, Japan, the UK, and Italy decided on and announced the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a joint development program for next-generation fighter aircraft. The three countries concurred on the recognition that this cooperative program is expected to build a foundation for global safety, stability, and prosperity over the next several decades. Furthermore, in December,



Signing of Japan-UK RAA (January 11, London, UK; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

Japan, the UK, and Italy signed the Convention on the Establishment of the "Global Combat Air Programme - GCAP International Government Organisation (GIGO)", and affirmed their firm resolve to continue working together to overcome various issues, with a view to completing development by 2035. With regard to illicit maritime activities including ship-to-ship transfers, the Royal Navy vessel engaged in monitoring and surveillance operations in the waters surrounding Japan in early January. The 7th Japan-UK Bilateral Consultations on Cyber Issues were held in February. In addition to exchanging views on broad topics, such as on each country's cybersecurity strategy and policy, cooperation in international fora including the UN, and capacity building for cybersecurity, both sides also discussed about related policies including on 5G and Open RAN technologies. The Fifth Japan-UK Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") was convened in November. At the meeting, the four ministers concurred to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and the UK to maintain and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law, and issued a Joint Statement.

With France, which Japan shares an "Exceptional Partnership" with, the Sixth Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") took place in January 2022. The Ministers shared the view of raising cooperation in the Indo-Pacific to a higher level and further promoting cooperation to address regional situations and challenges facing the international community. France has dispatched its Navy frigate since early April and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) from early to late October to the waters surrounding Japan, to conduct surveillance operations against illicit

maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers. At the Japan-France Summit Meeting held in January, the two leaders welcomed the progress in substantive cooperation, including reciprocal visits of assets and joint exercises between Japan and France, and concurred in deepening cooperation between the two countries. At the Seventh Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") held in May, the French side reiterated France's strong commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, and the four ministers exchanged views on Japanese-French cooperation in areas such as cyber, space, and economic security. They highly appreciated the defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and France, and shared the view to deepen such cooperation and exchanges as well as defense equipment and technology cooperation. The 7th Japan-France Bilateral Consultations on Cybersecurity were held in November, during which the two sides exchanged views broadly on cybersecurity strategy and policy, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, 5G technology and capacity building including human resource development in cybersecurity. During the Japan-France Telephone Summit Meeting held in December, the Roadmap that will guide the Japan-France cooperation was announced, and the two leaders concurred on making a further leap on their "exceptional partnership."

In relation to Germany, negotiations commenced in September on the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany ("Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement," or ACSA), which facilitates the smooth and prompt provision of supplies and services between the JSDF and the Armed Forces of Germany, in order to promote joint activities between the two forces. An agreement in principle was reached in November.

At the Japan-Italy Summit Meeting held in May 2022, Japan welcomed the progress in Japan-Italy security cooperation, including joint exercises in the Gulf of Aden by the Japan Maritime SDF and the Italian Navy, and the training of Japan Air SDF pilots by the Italian Air Force, and valued the formulation of the documents on the Indo-Pacific published by Italy, based on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the

Indo-Pacific. At the Japan-Italy Summit Meeting held in January 2023, the two leaders welcomed the GCAP announced at the end of 2022, and concurred on upgrading the relationship between the two countries to that of "strategic partners," and shared the view to establish consultations between the respective foreign and defense authorities as well as to further promote cooperation in the field of security. Italy dispatched the Italian Navy's naval frigate *Francesco Morosini* to Yokosuka in June 2023, and the Italian Air Force's F-35A and other aircraft to JASDF Komatsu Air Base in August the same year to participate in the respective joint exercises. In December, Japan, the UK, and Italy signed the Convention on the Establishment of the GIGO.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is located in a geopolitically strategic position, and faces Japan's important sea lanes. A stable and prosperous ASEAN region is crucial to the stability and prosperity not only of the East Asia region but also of the international community. On June 3, Japan signed the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology with Singapore, which entered into force on the same day. In October, Japan delivered an air surveillance radar system to the Philippines as the first transfer case of finished equipment, and in November, Japan and the Philippines concurred to commence negotiations on the Japan-Philippines Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA). To ensure the rule of law in the seas, Japan also provides continuous support to the Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and other countries to improve the law enforcement capabilities of their coast guard authorities. The first joint exercise among the coast guard agencies of Japan, the U.S., and the Philippines was held in June.

As for Canada, at the summit meeting held during the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023 and on other occasions, Japan and Canada welcomed the steady progress of cooperation between the two countries, including holding the negotiation on the General Security of Information Agreement in relation to the "Japan-Canada Action Plan for contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific region," announced at the Japan-Canada Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in October 2022. In 2023, Canada deepened its engagement in

the region, including dispatching three naval vessels to the Indo-Pacific to conduct activities. At the summit meeting held on the occasion of Prime Minister Kishida's visit to Canada in January, Prime Minister Kishida explained that Japan had decided to fundamentally reinforce its defense capabilities including the possession of counterstrike capabilities, and to increase its defense budget based on the new "National Security Strategy" (NSS) and other documents, to which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gave his full support. The two leaders also concurred to collaborate closely for the peace and stability of the region. With regard to joint exercises with the Canadian Armed Forces, the Japan-Canada joint exercise "KAEDEX," which has been conducted every year since 2017, was held in June. A number of multilateral joint exercises were also conducted, including "EXERCISE SAMASAMA," a joint exercise conducted in October among Japan, the U.S., the Philippines, Canada, and the UK. As for responding to illicit maritime activities including ship-to-ship transfers, a Royal Canadian Navy vessel conducted monitoring and surveillance operations in early June and from early September to early November, while monitoring and surveillance activities by aircraft were carried out between early April and mid-May, and between early October and early November, in the waters surrounding Japan.

In relation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), at the NATO Summit held in July, which Prime Minister Kishida attended, the leaders concurred to further enhance cooperation toward maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law, under the recognition that the security of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific is inseparable. On this occasion, the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP) was formulated as a new cooperation document to bring the Japan-NATO cooperation to new heights. In addition to traditional areas, both sides concurred on promoting cooperation in new areas such as cyber, emerging and disruptive technologies, space, and strategic communications. The first Japan-NATO Cyber Dialogue was held in November, during which the two sides exchanged views on broad topics ranging from each side's cyber policy to the Japan-NATO cooperation in the field of cyber.

At the Japan-EU Summit Meeting convened in July, Japan welcomed the EU's strengthened involvement in the Indo-Pacific amid the current severe security environment, and they concurred on establishing a strategic dialogue at the foreign ministerial level, as well as developing a security partnership in areas such as maritime security, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, and disarmament and non-proliferation. In addition, the 5th Japan-EU Cyber Dialogue was held in November. In this dialogue, the two sides exchanged views on various topics, such as cybersecurity strategy and policy, bilateral cooperation, and multilateral cooperation including through the UN, and capacity building support.

There are various issues of concern in relation to China, such as its intrusion into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands, an inherent territory of Japan, the extensive and rapid enhancement of its military power without sufficient transparency, and increasing activities by its military in the waters and air spaces surrounding Japan. Japan will continue to make use of opportunities at high-level dialogues, including summit meetings and foreign ministers' meetings, to firmly maintain and assert its position and strongly call for responsible actions by China. As China's military trends are a matter of serious concern for Japan, Japan is working on communicating its policies through security dialogues such as the Japan-China Security Dialogue, as well as efforts to build multilayered channels for exchanges. At the same time, Japan is communicating its concerns and urging China to improve transparency in relation to its defense policies and military power, as well as to take more concrete actions to contribute to the security environment and to the region, including Japan. The Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities of Japan and China that commenced operation in 2018 is aimed at promoting mutual understanding and mutual trust, and at avoiding unexpected collisions, and a hotline under this Mechanism commenced operation in May 2023.

Peace and stability in the Middle East region is vital to the peace and prosperity of the international community including Japan. The Middle East is one of the world's key energy suppliers, and approximately 90% of Japan's crude oil imports rely on the region. It is,

therefore, extremely important to ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in this region. As Japan's own efforts toward ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East region and the safety of Japan-related vessels, the Government of Japan made a Cabinet decision in December 2019 on utilization of vessels and aircraft of the SDF (a) to make further diplomatic efforts toward easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in the Middle East, (b) to take thorough measures for ensuring safety of navigation including robust information sharing with relevant stakeholders, and (c) to strengthen its information gathering system. Japan has continued to conduct information gathering activities using SDF vessels and aircraft in the waters of the Middle East since January 2020. The 1st Cyber Security Consultation between Japan and Jordan was held in June, and the two sides shared their recent updates of cyber security policies and exchanged views on the current state of affairs in cyberspace. In May, Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the UAE concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, the first such agreement concluded between Japan and a country of the Middle East region. This Agreement entered into force in January 2024.

In addition, Japan has actively participated in and contributed to multilateral frameworks in the region, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), in order to strengthen security cooperation in the region. The ARF is an important framework for dialogue on security in which various entities participate including North Korea and the EU, with the aims of improving the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region through dialogues and cooperation on political and security issues. It is also an important forum that focuses on confidence-building through various initiatives. In July, the 30th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held and the participants candidly exchanged views mainly on regional and international affairs, including issues concerning Ukraine, Taiwan, the East and South China Seas, North Korea, and Myanmar. Japan also actively contributes to the forum including through serving as a co-chair of all the Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) on Maritime Security, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Disaster Relief, and ICTs Security.

Furthermore, in addition to government-to-government dialogues (track 1), Japan utilizes frameworks where participants from both public and private sectors exchange opinions and explain their security policies (track 1.5), as well as other means, as part of its efforts to promote other countries' understanding of Japan's security policies, and to facilitate cooperation and confidence-building in the region.

(2) Economic Security

A Trends Surrounding Economic Security

In recent years, various challenges have been surfacing in fields that cut across national security and the economy. The scope of the national security domain is expanding rapidly. Various risks are emerging, such as the risk of stolen or leaked advanced civilian technologies being converted to military use in other countries, the risk of suppliers influenced by foreign governments obstructing the stable operation of critical infrastructure such as those for telecommunications, the risk of disruptions to the supply of critical goods due to over-dependencies on other countries, and the risk of being targeted by economic coercion by some countries seeking to achieve political objectives by using their advantages in the supply chain or their purchasing power in the market as leverage.

In light of the emergence of various threats related to economic means, securing Japan's national interests such as peace, security, and economic prosperity by carrying out economic measures, in other words economic security, is becoming increasingly important. In view of this, Japan is accelerating efforts, such as the enactment of the Economic Security Promotion Act in May 2022, and its gradual execution. This Act is centered around four pillars: enhancing the resilience of supply chains, ensuring security and reliability of critical infrastructure, support for the development of advanced critical technologies, and non-disclosure of selected patent applications. In the face of various threats at hand through economic means, the National Security Strategy, established by the Government of Japan in December the same year, also lays out that Japan will coordinate ideas on

necessary economic measures and execute these measures comprehensively, effectively, and intensively to enhance Japan's self-reliance and to secure the advantage and indispensability concerning its technologies and others. Furthermore, to strengthen and promote economic security efforts, the Council for the Promotion of Economic Security, chaired by the Prime Minister and with the Foreign Minister as a member, has been convened since November 2021.

In light of the fact that it has become clear that supply chain vulnerabilities can have adverse impacts in diverse fields even from the perspective of development, the new Development Cooperation Charter approved by the Cabinet in June 2023, as one of the priority policies in Japan's development cooperation, advocates promoting cooperation to enhance resilience and diversification of supply chains as well as economic diversification, sustainable development of critical mineral resources, and stable supply and security of food, among other forms of cooperation, in order to strengthen the socioeconomic autonomy and resilience of developing countries. These efforts are important not only for the sustainable growth of developing countries, but also for Japan. To that end, Japan will actively work to support human resources development, legal system development, and relevant infrastructure development that contribute to addressing and resolving these issues.

B Recent Initiatives by Other Countries

Other countries have also been rapidly advancing initiatives to promote economic security in recent years.

The U.S. has taken the lead in adopting and implementing regulations and promotion measures from the perspectives of maintaining its technological advantage and addressing supply chain risks. In February, the Department of Justice and the Department of Commerce launched the Disruptive Technology Strike Force for the purpose of protecting its advanced technologies from illegal acquisition and use.

In August, President Biden issued an Executive Order (EO) to regulate outbound investment, and directed the Secretary of the Treasury to formulate new regulations.

In October, the Department of Commerce revised its semiconductor export control measures to

appropriately manage the export of semiconductors used in AI processing and supercomputers, as well as semiconductor manufacturing equipment used in high-end semiconductor production, due to concerns that sensitive technologies may be diverted to military applications.

The EU promotes strengthening resilience against the risk of supply disruptions to critical technologies and materials, under the concept of "strategic autonomy." The Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) entered into force in January, enabling the European Commission to conduct investigations in the case of suspected market distortive effects caused by subsidies, in regard to activities conducted within EU markets by companies that have received subsidies from foreign governments outside of the region.

The European Commission published the European Economic Security Strategy in June. This strategy defines supply chain vulnerabilities, physical and cyber security risks to critical infrastructure, technology leakage, and the weaponization of trade policies or economic coercion, as risks to economic security, and sets out concrete measures to address such risks. In December 2021, the European Commission published its proposal for an Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI), which provides procedures and standards for invoking countermeasures as a last resort when a third country refuses to stop its economic coercion on an EU Member State even with the implementation of dialogues and other deterrence measures. The proposal was adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council in October 2023, and entered into force in December the same year.

Australia has, thus far, positioned the securing of national resilience and the protection of assets and infrastructure as its national interests, and advanced concrete measures to that end. These include the formulation of the International Cyber and Critical Tech Engagement Strategy (April 2021), which sets out the policy for promoting the identification of technologies that should be protected, the tightening of investment screening systems for land and businesses related to sensitive national security (January 2021), and the establishment of the Next Generation Technologies Fund, which invests approximately 60 billion yen over 10 years from 2016 into game-changing technologies

on national security. In December 2021, the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Act came into effect. This law is aimed at strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure, and sets out the expansion of critical infrastructure departments and their responsibilities, as well as government support and intervention measures in the event of cyber security incidents.

Canada published its Critical Minerals Strategy in 2022 and strengthened its efforts ranging from critical mineral research and exploration to recycling. During the same year, Japan and Canada concurred on the "Japan-Canada Action Plan for contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific region," which includes cooperation in the field of energy security. Cooperation between the two countries in these fields has been further accelerated with the signing of two Memorandums of Cooperation concerning Battery Supply Chains and on Industrial Science and Technology in September 2023. Canada is also promoting economic security efforts in the Indo-Pacific region with other countries. In May 2023, the ROK and Canada signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Critical Mineral Supply Chains, and the Clean Energy Transition and Energy Security. In September, ASEAN and Canada concurred to establish the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership and issued the ASEAN-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises. In January 2024, it announced new measures to protect Canadian research, which incorporates the publication of a list of named research organizations connected to military, national defense, or state security entities that may pose a risk to Canada's national security, as well as a list of sensitive technology research areas. Under the new measures, grants and funding will not be provided to research in these areas if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from, a university, research institute or laboratory connected to such entities.

Diplomatic Efforts Toward the Promotion of Economic Security

Diplomacy plays a significant role in promoting economic security. Japan, in cooperation with the

international community, is engaged in active diplomacy in areas such as further strengthening cooperation with its ally and like-minded countries, responding to issues based on existing rules, and rule-making to address new challenges.

In relation to further strengthening cooperation with its ally and like-minded countries, Japan leverages cooperation under the Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee Meeting (the Economic "2+2") and bilateral efforts with the UK and other partners, as well as cooperation under the G7, Japan-Australia-India-U.S., and Japan-U.S.-ROK, to expand and deepen cooperation with a view to developing common recognition and coordinating policies.

In responding to issues based on existing rules, Japan has worked on correcting unfair trade policies and practices of others in cooperation with like-minded countries from the perspective of consistency with existing rules, including World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), investment-related treaties. Furthermore, Japan gathers and analyzes information on economic security measures and trade rules, drawing on the efforts of like-minded countries, and works to ensure that Japan's economic security policy needs are appropriately met.

With regard to rule-making to respond to new challenges, existing international agreements are not adequate for addressing areas such as critical and emerging technologies, including the fifth-generation mobile communications systems (5G), economic coercion, and others. In fields where there is a need to further develop international rules, Japan continues to play a leading role in international debates in cooperation with like-minded countries.

Cooperation with its Ally and Like-minded Countries

Following on from last year, Japan continued to make particularly significant progress in cooperation with its ally and like-minded countries in 2023.

Under the G7 framework, economic resilience and economic security was established as an independent item for the first time in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Communique, issued at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held

in May, a standalone session on economic resilience and economic security was convened for the first time in the history of the G7 Summit, and the G7 leaders affirmed that the G7 will be united in responding to issues such as 1) enhancing resilience of supply chains and critical infrastructure, 2) strengthening its response to non-market policies and practices and economic coercion, and 3) appropriately managing critical and emerging technologies. Based on this session, a comprehensive and concrete message on economic resilience and economic security was sent out in the form of the "G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security." Building on these outcomes, the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka-Sakai held in October affirmed further progress in responding to economic coercion and strengthening the resilience of supply chains, while the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in November affirmed that efforts will be made to further develop international cooperation on economic resilience and economic security beyond the G7. At the G7 Leaders' Video Conference held in December, Prime Minister Kishida noted that it is important to address issues, including non-market policies and practices and economic coercion, strengthening supply chains and key infrastructure, and managing sensitive technologies, in a comprehensive manner with close collaboration, and stated that the discussions in Hiroshima and the G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security are the foundation for this. The leaders affirmed that they would continue strengthening cooperation among the G7.

In relation to the U.S., during the Economic "2+2" held in November, discussions were conducted on two topics: strengthening the rules-based economic order in the Indo-Pacific region, and strengthening economic resilience as well as promoting and protecting critical and emerging technologies. The two sides shared their plans to continue working to address non-market policies and practices and economic coercion in order to build a free and fair economic order in the Indo-Pacific region. They also confirmed their intention to accelerate cooperation, including on promoting and protecting

their technology in areas such as semiconductors, AI, quantum, clean energy, and 5G, and furthermore, confirmed that they will promote concrete collaboration in areas such as securing a stable supply of critical minerals and cooperation toward ensuring energy and food security.

At the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting held in Hiroshima in May, the leaders affirmed, in the joint statement issued, that they will step up efforts to strengthen supply chain resilience and improve the region's digital connectivity through access to critical and emerging technologies and advanced telecommunications technology, including 5G networks. In addition to announcing cooperation with Palau to establish a deployment of Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN)⁴, the first in the Pacific, they also announced the release of the Open RAN Security Report, which analyzes the advantages, challenges, and possibility of overcoming challenges of Open RAN, and of the Quad Principles on Critical and Emerging Technology Standards.

At the Japan-U.S.-ROK Summit held in August, the leaders exchanged views on strengthening coordination on economic security. Furthermore, in the Japan-U.S.-ROK Joint Leaders' Statement released after the Summit, the three countries concurred on working closely together to launch early warning system pilots for supply chain disruptions, and to enhance cooperation on technology protection measures.

With regard to Japan's relations with the ROK, the leaders of the two countries concurred to launch a bilateral consultation on economic security during the Japan-ROK Summit Meeting held in March, and this consultation was conducted three times in 2023. In addition, the 15th Japan-ROK High-Level Economic Consultations were held in December, during which the ministers exchanged views on, among others, economic coercion, critical and emerging technologies, and supply chains, and concurred to continue working together.

In regard to relations with European countries, at the Japan-UK Summit Meeting held in May, the two leaders concurred on deepening cooperation on

⁴ Refers to radio access networks (RAN) that can be built in an open way by a combination of multiple vendors. It offers the advantage of contributing to the mitigation of supply chain risks.

economic security challenges, including economic coercion. The "Hiroshima Accord: An Enhanced Japan-UK Global Strategic Partnership" was issued on this occasion. In this document, the two sides agreed to work together on issues such as supply chain resilience, all forms of forced or coerced technology transfers and intellectual property theft, and export controls. They also noted shared concerns over, and strong opposition to, economic coercion and non-market policies and practices that distort the level playing field. In the Joint Leaders' Statement on the Deepening of the Strategic Partnership between Japan and the Kingdom of Denmark, issued in October, the two leaders appreciated the G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security, adopted at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, and concurred in enhancing cooperation on economic security, including in addressing non-market policies and practices, economic coercion and other harmful practices. This was reiterated in the Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, issued in December.

With regard to Japan's relations with Southeast Asian countries, the joint statement which was issued from the Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting held in February set out the decision to strengthen cooperation in the promotion of economic security, expressed concerns for and strong opposition to economic coercion, and stressed the importance of close coordination in addressing economic coercion. The Japan-Bangladesh Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership, released in April, also shared the recognition on the importance of economic security including strengthening resilience of supply chains, and the rules-based international economic order to counter challenges such as economic coercion. The Joint Statement on the Elevation of the Japan-Viet Nam Relations to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia and the World, issued in November, affirmed the importance of cooperation to ensure economic security, recognized the importance of transparent, diverse, secure, sustainable, and reliable supply chains, and confirmed the enhancement of supply chain resilience to ensure stable production activities for the benefit of both sides. In addition, the Japan-Malaysia Joint Statement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,

issued in December, expressed the shared intention to cooperate on economic security including strengthening supply chain resilience, and affirmed that the two sides will promote cooperation in areas including ICT.

Response to Economic Coercion

Among the new issues described in "C" above, economic coercion that involves using economic ties with a specific country and taking measures or threatening to take measures in an abusive, arbitrary, or opaque manner, in order to achieve political objectives, is becoming a particularly serious problem against the backdrop of globalization and the growing economic interdependence between countries. Such economic coercion poses challenges to a free, open and rules-based international order (See the Special Feature on page 212).

The National Security Strategy published in December 2022 also sets out the policy for promoting effective efforts against economic coercion by foreign countries. To address economic coercion, which is an issue that cannot be adequately addressed by existing international agreements, it is important to foster a common understanding within the international community by working with its ally and like-minded countries and strategically raising international awareness. The G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security, issued at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, announced the launch of the Coordination Platform on Economic Coercion to increase collective assessment, preparedness, deterrence and response to economic coercion, and efforts are progressing under this platform.

MOFA's Role

Changes in the global security environment have increased a need to maintain and strengthen the rules-based international economic order, while also taking into account the perspective of security. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), as the ministry that is responsible for security policies, external economic relations and international law, will continue to lead diplomatic efforts related to economic security, as well as to work proactively to maintain and strengthen the international order.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Response to Economic Coercion

Economic coercion that involves using economic ties with a specific country and taking measures or threatening to take measures in an abusive, arbitrary, or opaque manner, in order to achieve political objectives, is becoming a particularly serious problem against the backdrop of globalization and the growing economic interdependence between countries. Such economic coercion poses challenges to a free, open and rules-based international order, and it is unacceptable that the target country's autonomous policy decision-making or its sound economic development are inhibited by a specific country through economic coercion. The National Security Strategy published in December 2022 also sets out the policy for promoting effective efforts against economic coercion by foreign countries. Japan has also made use of various opportunities, including the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May 2023, to clearly demonstrate its intention to counter economic coercion.

At the Hiroshima Summit, the launch of the Coordination Platform on Economic Coercion was announced through the issuance of the G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security. The Platform has already commenced its activities to seek early warning, rapid information sharing, collaborative situation assessment, and coordinated responses to economic coercion.

The G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka-Sakai held in October also saw ministers engage in discussions on economic coercion and concur on working toward further progress as the G7.

Efforts in other fora than the G7 included, for instance, the issuance of the Joint Declaration Against Trade-Related Economic Coercion and Non-Market Policies and Practices in June by Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, and the U.S. Building on the momentum from the G7, this Joint Declaration reiterates concerns about economic coercion and affirms that the respective countries will enhance international cooperation.

Japan is also deepening cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. For example, the Japan-Philippines Joint Statement issued in February and the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership issued in April affirmed the importance of countering economic coercion. The same intention was also affirmed in joint statements with like-minded countries that do not belong to the G7, including the Joint Leaders' Statement on the Deepening of the Strategic Partnership between Japan and the Kingdom of Denmark issued in October, the Joint Statement on friendship and comprehensive partnership in the new era between Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic issued in November, and the Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway issued in December.

Japan will continue to make effective use of the frameworks of like-minded countries such as the G7, as well as bilateral measures, while actively promoting collaboration with an ally and like-minded countries and responses that are aligned with international rules.

(3) Cyber

Today, cross-border cyberspace has become an indispensable social infrastructure for conducting all activities in countries around the world, and its importance and public nature are growing due to its role as a public space that all citizens are engaged in. On the other hand, amid the growing competition among nations and other entities that reflects recent geopolitical tensions, cyberattacks have been used constantly to disable or destroy critical infrastructures, interfere in foreign elections, demand ransoms, and steal sensitive information, even in the form of state-sponsored cyberattacks.

Based on this recognition, MOFA is engaged in various diplomatic efforts to realize a free, fair, and secure cyberspace: promoting the development and deepening of rules and norms, working to deter cyberattacks, supporting capacity building, and engaging in international cooperation to effectively advance these efforts.

To promote the development and deepening of rules and norms, through discussions within the UN that have spanned about a quarter of a century, all UN Member States have confirmed the application of existing international law to cyberspace and concurred on the UN norms of responsible state behavior

in cyberspace⁵, which sets out 11 items. While these norms are not legally binding under international law, they provide the basis for the development of rules in cyberspace. Therefore, it is important for each country to specifically implement these norms, and to build up national practices. Based on this perspective, Japan participates actively in the relevant discussions in the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), in which all UN Member States participate, for the term from 2021 to 2025. It is important for every country to clarify their basic positions on how existing international law applies to cyberspace, and Japan made its position public in 2021.⁶

As an initiative to deter cyberattacks, Japan has carried out "public attribution," which is for each country to publicly condemn or express concerns about groups conducting cyberattacks. Japan has publicly condemned North Korea's involvement behind the scenes on the WannaCry incident in 2017⁷ as well as the long-running cyberattacks perpetrated by the China-based group APT10 in 2018. Furthermore, in July 2021, the Press Secretary of MOFA issued a statement on cyberattacks, assessing that a group known as APT40, which the Chinese government is behind, as well as a group known as Tick, which Unit 61419 of the Chinese People's Liberation Army is behind, were highly likely to have been involved in these cyberattacks, and firmly condemned these activities in coordination with Japan's ally and like-minded countries. In 2023, Japan, together with the U.S., released a joint cybersecurity advisory about cyberattacks by the cyberattack group known as BlackTech, which the Chinese government is behind. While it may be difficult to identify cyberattacks, analyzing attacks, ascertaining the entities behind the attacks, and making the information public can raise awareness of the threat, send out the message that activities by the states or criminal organizations behind the attacks have been acknowledged and will not be tolerated, and help to shape international standards. This is expected to be effective in raising the costs of future activities for cyberattackers.

With regard to capacity building support, in view of the borderless nature of cyberspace, enhancing the capacity of other countries and regions contributes to the security environment for the world as a whole, including Japan. From this perspective, relevant ministries and agencies, including MOFA, continue to provide support for capacity building and promote initiatives through international organizations, with a focus on ASEAN, which is positioned as a cornerstone for realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" based on the rule of law. Specifically, Japan conducts training, provides equipment at the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC), implements the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Country/Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP), and contributes to the Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund through the World Bank, among other initiatives.

International cooperation is of utmost importance in advancing these initiatives in cyberspace. To that end, Japan engages in cyber dialogues with many countries and regions, including consultations with the UK, the U.S., Jordan, India, France, NATO, EU, Australia, and among Japan-U.S.-ROK in 2023. Under the Quad Cybersecurity Partnership announced in May 2022 at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting, the four countries are cooperating on cybersecurity for critical infrastructure and capacity building support in the Indo-Pacific region, among other efforts. Japan also participates actively in discussions for the International Counter Ransomware Initiative, a multilateral framework hosted by the U.S. with the aim of addressing the rapidly growing threat of ransomware.8

Through these diplomatic efforts, Japan will continue to contribute to the realization of a free, fair and secure cyberspace.

(4) Maintaining and Developing the International Maritime Order

Japan is a country surrounded by the sea on all sides, and it is blessed with a vast exclusive economic zone



⁵ At the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in 2015, a report setting out 11 items on non-binding, voluntary norms for responsible state behavior was adopted.

⁶ See MOFA's website for Japan's position: https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/page3e_001114.html

⁷ A malicious program that North Korea is believed to have been involved in. In May 2017, more than 300,000 computers in more than 150 countries were infected and ransom was demanded.

⁸ Cyberattacks carried out for ransom purposes.

(EEZ) and long coastlines. It is a maritime nation that has achieved economic growth through maritime trade and development of marine resources. "Free and Open Seas," which are upheld by maritime order based on the rule of law including freedom of navigation and overflight, rather than force, are essential for the peace and prosperity not only of Japan but also of the international community as a whole. Based on this stance, the Government of Japan has stood united in promoting efforts to maintain and develop the international maritime order, in addition to securing Japan's national interests in its territorial waters, in accordance with the Fourth Basic Plan on Ocean Policy adopted in April. In cooperation with its ally and like-minded countries, Japan is advancing efforts to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," and in particular, working to strengthen maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region where important sea lanes are located.

A Basic Stance

There is an increasing number of cases, particularly in Asia, of tension arising from friction between countries over issues surrounding the seas. In light of this, in 2014, Prime Minister Abe shared the view that it was necessary to fully uphold the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea" (See 6(2) on page 257). At the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) convened in March 2023, Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed the importance of the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea" in his introduction to the new plan for FOIP. Based on these principles, Japan has been cooperating with other countries to work toward maintaining and developing the international maritime order (See Chapter 2, Section 1).

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Also known as the "Constitution for the Oceans," UNCLOS is the very basis of maritime order governed by the rule of law. Japan regards maritime order with the Convention at the core as the cornerstone that safeguards Japan's maritime rights and interests while facilitating its maritime activities across the international community. As such, Japan actively contributes to discussions among concerned international organizations at conferences that include the Meetings

of States Parties to the Convention, as well as to the sharing of ideas for achieving stability in the maritime legal order, in order to ensure that the convention will be even more widely applied and implemented appropriately (See 6(2) on page 257). At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May, G7 leaders emphasized the universal and unified character of the UNCLOS.

Response to Challenges to Japan's Sovereignty and Maritime Rights and Interests (Situation Surrounding the East China Sea) (See Chapter 2, Section 2, 2(1) B(D))

In the East China Sea, China Coast Guard vessels intruded into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands in rapid succession in 2023, and the number of days China Coast Guard vessels navigated in the contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands reached a record high of 352 days in the year. Furthermore, there were repeated occurrences of China Coast Guard vessels intruding into the territorial sea and approaching Japanese fishing vessels, and the situation remains severe, with the number of hours of intrusion into the territorial sea hitting a record high of 80 hours and 36 minutes in April. Chinese military vessels and aircraft are also becoming increasingly active and expanding their operations, and China has been continuing with unilateral resource development in areas where the EEZ and the continental shelf are pending delimitation. Additionally, in recent years, Japan has found numerous research projects being conducted by China in the waters surrounding Japan, such as the East China Sea, without Japan's consent. In July 2023, Japan confirmed the presence of a buoy believed to have been installed by China in Japan's EEZ, on the Japan side of the geographical equidistance line between Japan and China in the East China Sea, and has been repeatedly calling on China since then to remove it immediately.

Given China's continued unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea, Japan will carefully monitor the trends and movements around its air and sea spaces, and continue to respond in a firm but calm manner while making claims that should be made. At the same time, it will promote cooperation with the relevant countries including the U.S. in order to achieve peace and stability in the East China Sea.

Uotsuri Island (Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture)



Photo: Office of Policy Planning and Coordination on Territory and Sovereignty, Cabinet Secretariat

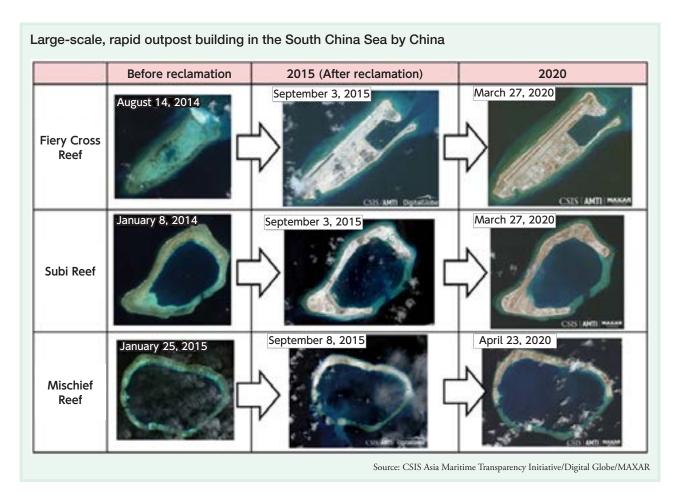
At the G7 Hiroshima Summit convened in May, G7 leaders stated that they remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas, and strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. Furthermore, at the ASEAN Japan Summit and East Asia Summit (EAS) held in September, Prime Minister Kishida expressed strong opposition to the continuing and intensifying activities in the East China Sea that infringe upon Japan's sovereignty. At the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation held in December, he reiterated serious concern over the continuing and intensifying activities in the East China Sea that infringe upon Japan's sovereignty, and stated that Japan will continue to cooperate with ASEAN to address the regional and international situation.

Response to Challenges to the Maritime Order in the South China Sea (See Chapter 2, Section 2, 7(2))

In the South China Sea, China has been continuing and intensifying unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, which is against the rule of law and openness, attempts to make it faits accomplis, as well as actions that increase tensions in the region. These

include further militarization of disputed features and coercive actions toward coastal states and others. The international community, including Japan, has expressed serious concerns over these actions. Japan strongly opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force as well as any actions to increase tensions in the South China Sea, and has consistently supported the full enforcement of the rule of law, while focusing on ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and ensuring the safety of sea lanes. Japan has also emphasized the importance of all the concerned parties related to the South China Sea to work toward peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law, in particular the UNCLOS.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May, G7 leaders stated that there is no legal basis for China's expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea and expressed opposition to China's militarization activities in the region. They further reaffirmed UNCLOS's important role in setting out the legal framework that governs all activities in the oceans and the seas. G7 leaders also reiterated that the award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal on July 12, 2016, is a significant milestone, which is legally binding upon the parties to those proceedings, and a useful basis for peacefully



resolving disputes between the parties. Furthermore, at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting held in May 2023, Prime Minister Kishida expressed opposition and serious concern about attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific, including the East and South China Seas, and the four leaders shared the view that they strongly oppose such attempts. At the ASEAN-Japan Summit and EAS in September, Prime Minister Kishida pointed out that militarization and coercive activities are continuing in the South China Sea, and that claims of maritime rights and activities in the sea should be conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS. At the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation held in December, he reiterated serious concern over the continuation of actions that increase tensions in the South China Sea, expressing that Japan will continue to cooperate with ASEAN to address the regional and international situation.

The issue with regard to the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region and constitutes a legitimate concern of the international community. The issue is also an important matter of concern for Japan, which depends on marine transport for much of its resources and energy and which is a stakeholder that utilizes the South China Sea. Cooperation within the international community is of great importance in maintaining and developing "Free and Open Seas" based on the rule of law. From this perspective, Japan supports the U.S. Freedom of Navigation Operations⁹ in the South China Sea.

Measures to Combat Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships

Japan actively contributes to ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and safe maritime transport through efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and Africa as well as close partnership and cooperation with other countries.

⁹ The U.S. Government explains its "Freedom of Navigation" operations as efforts to challenge excessive claims that can infringe freedom of navigation and overflight, and the right of lawful uses of the sea. One example of this is the navigation of the U.S. Navy's USS *Benfold* guided-missile destroyer through the waters around the Spratly Islands on September 8, 2021.

(A) Measures to Address Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), which Japan took the initiative in formulating, entered into force in 2006. Since then, the Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP-ISC) established in Singapore has been conducting information sharing on incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and other regions, as well as cooperation to support capacity building. To date, Japan has been supporting the activities of ReCAAP-ISC by dispatching the Executive Directors (left office in March 2022) and Assistant Directors and making financial contributions. According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), while the number of cases of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the seas of Southeast Asia was 56 in 2021, 58 in 2022, and 67 in 2023, as a result of activities by ReCAAP-ISC and the contributions of the member states, the number of serious incidents, including kidnappings and assaults, has been suppressed in recent years.

(B) Measures to Address Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships Off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

According to the IMB, the number of cases of piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, which is an important sea lane linking Asia and Europe, was 237 at its peak in 2011. It has since declined to a low level with zero or one attempted incident since 2019. However, in 2023, the first hijacking case since 2017 occurred in this region. Although this was a single case, IMB sounded the warning that this case signals the presence of entities in these areas of the ocean that have the capability to carry out acts of piracy.

Since 2009, Japan has been conducting counter-piracy operations by deploying Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers (with coast guard officers on board) and P-3C patrol aircraft off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. To solve the root causes of piracy in

these areas, Japan has been making multilayered efforts that include support for enhancing the maritime security capabilities of Somalia and its neighboring countries and ensuring the stability of Somalia.

Robbery against Ships in the Gulf of Guinea

(C) Measures to Address Piracy and Armed

According to IMB, the number of cases of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Gulf of Guinea increased slightly from 19 in 2022 to 22 in 2023, and it continues to be a sea area with the largest number of serious incidents in the world, resulting in multiple casualties. Strengthening maritime law enforcement capabilities among coastal states remains a key issue. To that end, Japan provides capacity building assistance to the coastal states through training programs conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and JICA, and also works with the international community through participation in meetings of the "G7++ Group of Friends of the Gulf of Guinea," 10 among other efforts.

International Cooperation on Capacity Building Assistance

Amid advancing globalization, the impact of technological innovation on the global security environment, rapid changes in the military balance, including China's growing militarization, and greater cross-border threats, no single country can protect its peace and security on its own. This is particularly true in the maritime field. Therefore, Japan is advancing efforts to strengthen its defense capabilities and maritime law enforcement capabilities, while providing capacity building assistance to various countries to support their maritime security and maritime law enforcement capabilities as well as engaging in international cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) with the aim of maintaining and developing international maritime order, in collaboration and cooperation with its ally and like-minded countries.

Japan has been utilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA) in these cooperative efforts. At the IISS Shangri-la Dialogue in 2022, Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan will make use of technical

cooperation, training, and other means conducive to strengthening the maritime law enforcement capabilities of at least 20 countries to promote efforts to train at least 800 maritime security personnel and strengthen their human resources network over a three-year period until 2025, including through sharing Japan's knowledge and experience on advanced technologies, such as satellites, artificial intelligence (AI) and unmanned aerial vehicles, with other countries. Additionally, he pledged to provide at least approximately 2 billion U.S. dollars in assistance, such as the provision of maritime security equipment including patrol vessels and development of maritime transportation infrastructure, to Indo-Pacific countries. He also stated that Japan will strengthen support to Indo-Pacific countries, utilizing the Quad and international organizations and so forth. In 2023, trainings were conducted in Japan and overseas for more than 600 officials of coast guard authorities and relevant agencies of 23 countries. Japan also decided to provide a large patrol vessel, which will be built at a Japanese shipyard, to the Indonesian Coast Guard Agency under the grant aid project, "The Project for Enhancement of Ability in Maritime Safety and Security." Through its support toward the Maritime Law Enforcement Capacity Building Project implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), Japan also develops training courses and conducts training and workshops related to measures against illegal maritime activities in the target countries.

To provide capacity building assistance to coast guard authorities of coastal states of the Indo-Pacific, the Japan Coast Guard dispatches highly skilled Japan Coast Guard officials with expert knowledge as well as the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT), a special team that provides foreign coast guard authorities with capacity building (including through the GMCP framework). The Japan Coast Guard also invites foreign coast guard officials to Japan to train them under the "Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program." In addition, Japan provides capacity building support in areas, such as warship maintenance

and diving medicine, to the militaries of the Indo-Pacific countries, and conducts training on board Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) vessels for young naval officers of ASEAN member states.

Furthermore, Official Security Assistance (OSA), newly established in 2023, positions maritime security as one of the priority areas, and aims to strengthen security and deterrence capabilities by providing materials and equipment as well as assistance for infrastructure development to the armed forces and other related organizations of friendly countries. In 2023, Japan decided to provide the Philippines with coastal radar systems, Bangladesh with patrol boats, Malaysia with monitoring and surveillance equipment (such as rescue boats), and Fiji with patrol boats and other related equipment through OSA (See the Special Feature on page 219).

When providing such assistance, Japan coordinates with its ally and like-minded countries, aligning its assistance with the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)¹¹ of the Quad, and sharing MDA information based on its memorandum of cooperation with each country.

(5) Outer Space

In June, Japan revised its Basic Plan on Space Policy for the first time in three years and formulated a new Space Security Initiative. The Space Security Initiative sets out specific challenges and policies in the field of space security, incorporates measures to be taken for space security during the next decade, and covers efforts to maintain the stable use of and free access to outer space jointly with Japan's ally and like-minded countries.

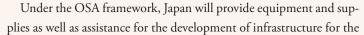
In recent years, outer space has become more congested due to its diversified use and an increasing number of countries using space. In addition, the increase of space debris due to factors such as anti-satellite (ASAT) tests poses a growing risk to the sustainable and stable use of outer space. In order to cope with this situation, Japan has been engaging in initiatives such as strengthening Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and mission assurance for space systems. Japan has also been working on international rule-making and international space cooperation.

¹¹ A maritime domain awareness initiative designed to respond to humanitarian and natural disasters and counter illegal fishery in cooperation with regional partners. It was announced at the Quad Leaders' Meeting held in Tokyo in May 2022.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Establishment of Official Security Assistance (OSA) Framework

As Japan is finding itself in the midst of the most severe and complex security environment since the end of World War II, it is essential for Japan to drastically strengthen its own defense capabilities as well as enhance the security and deterrence capabilities of like-minded countries in order to prevent unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, ensure the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region in particular, and create a security environment desirable for Japan. From this perspective, in 2023, Japan established a new cooperation framework "Official Security Assistance (OSA)," apart from "Official Development Assistance (ODA)" which aims for the economic and social development of developing countries.





Prime Minister Kishida and President Marcos of the Philippines participating in the exchange of notes for OSA to the Philippines (November 3, Manila, Philippines; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

benefit of the armed forces and related organizations of the countries. By enhancing their security and deterrence capabilities, OSA aims to deepen Japan's security cooperation with the countries, to create a desirable security environment for Japan, and to contribute to maintaining and strengthening international peace and security. The policy for OSA is set out in the National Security Strategy approved by the Cabinet on December 16, 2022. On April 5, 2023, the Implementation Guidelines for Japan's OSA were decided and announced at the National Security Council.

An important premise behind OSA is to continue firmly maintaining Japan's basic philosophy as a peace-loving nation, and to respond to the security needs of recipient countries. For this reason, the Implementation Guidelines prescribe the following principles, among others: (1) Implemented within the framework of the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology and its Implementation Guidelines; (2) Implemented only in fields not directly relating to any international conflict; (3) Conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Based on these Implementation Guidelines, Japan will provide support toward activities that contribute to enhancing capabilities for ensuring peace, stability, and security based on the rule of law (monitoring and surveillance in territorial waters and airspace, counter-terrorism and counter-piracy, etc.), humanitarian activities (disaster response, search and rescue, medical care, enhancing transportation capabilities for relief goods, etc.), and international peace cooperation operations (capacity building to participate in Peacekeeping operations (PKO), etc.).

When implementing OSA, from the perspective of ensuring its appropriateness and transparency, Japan will ensure the following: appropriate information disclosure, assessment and monitoring of the programme and disclosure of information on its results, proper management of the provided assistance including prohibition of extra-purpose use and transfer to third parties. Furthermore, OSA will be implemented in close coordination with related organizations including the National Security Secretariat, and the Ministry of Defense.

In the first year of OSA implementation in FY2023 (as of December 31), Japan decided that assistance will be provided to the Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Fiji, which play an important role in the peace and security of the region. Of these, the exchange of notes on projects for the Philippines and Malaysia was carried out in the presence of Prime Minister Kishida, President Marcos of the Philippines, and Prime Minister Anwar of Malaysia, respectively. Assistance to these four countries is aimed at contributing to enhancing surveillance capabilities in the field of maritime security, and specifically, involves the provision of coastal radar systems to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, patrol boats to Bangladeshi Navy, rescue boats and other relevant equipment to the Malaysian Armed Forces, and patrol boats and other relevant equipment to Fiji Navy. Going forward, MOFA will continue to work with the relevant ministries and agencies to ensure that OSA achieves meaningful outcomes that contribute to its purposes.

In May, Japan, as the G7 Presidency, incorporated the importance of addressing the issues of space debris and the commitment not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent ASAT missile testing into the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué for the first time in a G7 communiqué.

A Realization of the Rule of Law in Outer Space

The international community has been vigorously discussing international rule-making concerning outer space activities in a variety of ways. Japan has also been actively involved in these efforts toward realizing the rule of law in outer space.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), a permanent committee established under the UN General Assembly, plays an important role in international rule-making related to civil space activities.

Apart from the Committee, which engages in comprehensive discussions, COPUOS has the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which conducts reviews on issues related to space activities from scientific and technical aspects, and the Legal Subcommittee, which discusses legal matters arising from space activities.

At the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee convened in February, active discussions were held on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in addition to individual themes, such as space debris and remote sensing.

At the session of the Legal Subcommittee convened in March, discussions were held on issues related to the definition of outer space and equitable access to the geostationary satellite orbit, as well as on Space Traffic Management (STM) and space resources, which have been attracting more attention in recent years. In particular, with reference to space resources, intensive discussions were held on how international rules regarding space resources should be at the Working Group on Space Resources, newly established under the Legal Subcommittee in 2021 (chaired by Professor AOKI Setsuko of Keio University Law School).

With regard to the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), established based on the resolution on "Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours" jointly proposed

by Japan, the UK, and other countries in 2021, convened four sessions until September. Active discussions were held on the international laws applied to outer space, and the threats, responsible or irresponsible behaviors in outer space. However, the report was not adopted due to objection from one country. Separately, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) established through a proposal by Russia in 2022, was held in Geneva in November. Furthermore, at the meeting of the UN's First Committee held in October, it was decided that an OEWG on "responsible behaviours" proposed by the UK would be convened from 2025 to 2026, and that another OEWG on PAROS proposed by Russia would be convened from 2024 to 2028.

In addition, with a view to contributing to the rule of law in outer space, Japan announced in 2021 that it would cooperate with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) on its "Space Law for New Space Actors" project and has since been offering support to emerging space-faring nations in the Asia Pacific region for the development and implementation of domestic space-related laws. In 2023, Japan provided legal capacity building support with a focus on the supervision as well as authorization and licensing of space activities. In June, in collaboration with 11 participating countries of the "National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI)" of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), Japan compiled a joint report summarizing efforts of each country in developing and operating national space legislation, and submitted it to UN COPUOS to share the findings of each country.

International Dialogues and Consultations on Outer Space

Japan promotes dialogues and consultations on outer space primarily with major space-faring nations and nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

In particular, in 2023, Japan held the Japan-France Comprehensive Dialogue on Space for the first time in six years and the Japan-EU Space Policy Dialogue for the first time in four years in January, as well as the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space for the first time in three years in March. In addition to information on the space policies of each side, they also exchanged views on a wide range of subjects, including

security cooperation and inter-agency cooperation (See page 199, 2(2) D on relations with the U.S.).

As part of the efforts under the Quad (Japan-Australia-India-U.S.), Japan organized capacity building support (such as responding to extreme precipitation events) to third countries through workshops and other efforts, utilizing the working group on space established at the Quad Summit Meeting held in 2021. At the Quad Leaders' Meeting held in May 2023, the four leaders recognized the importance of space technologies and space-related applications in the fields of climate change, disasters and oceans.

With regard to multilateral meetings, the 29th session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-29), co-organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, was held in September. At this Forum, discussions were held on expanding the space industry, promoting sustainable space activities for the future, and contributing to the resolution of social issues.

International Space Exploration and the International Space Station (ISS)

The progress of space exploration and application for peaceful purposes is a common benefit for all humankind, and is also of diplomatic significance.

In 2019, Japan decided to participate in the Artemis Program, a U.S.-led international space exploration program. In 2020, with the Artemis Program in mind, eight countries, including Japan and the U.S., signed the Artemis Accords, which set out a political commitment to establish principles for creating a safe and transparent environment in promoting outer space activities. Thereafter, more countries signed the Artemis Accords, and the number of signatories increased to 33 countries as of the end of December 2023.

In April, the Governments of Japan and the U.S. signed the Exchange of Notes between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of

America for the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission, which aims to bring back samples from a Martian moon to Earth.

Furthermore, in January, the Governments of Japan and the U.S. signed the Framework Agreement between Japan and the United States of America for Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which is a new legal framework to further facilitate Japan-U.S. space cooperation, represented by the exploration and use of outer space. This Agreement entered into force in June (See the Special Feature on page 222).

Japan has been providing human resource development programs (robot programming, physics and plant experiments, etc.) to the Asia Pacific region through the Kibo-ABC Initiative 12 established under the APRSAF, utilizing the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" on the ISS to support capacity building in the space field. In June, Japan conducted a protein crystal growth experiment in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) onboard Kibo/ISS. Japan also provides emerging space-faring nations with the opportunity to deploy nanosatellites through the KiboCUBE program¹³, a collaborative framework implemented with the UNOOSA, and the open call for the 8th KiboCUBE was announced in June. Under this program, the Central American Integration System (SICA), Mexico and Tunisia are developing satellites for deployment.

Addressing Global Issues through the Utilization of Space Technology

Amidst rising expectations of space technology's potential in resolving global issues in recent years, Japan has been promoting international cooperation based on the utilization of its internationally superior space technologies, and contributing toward the achievement of the SDGs.

For example, Japan provides, at no charge, the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMaP) system, which utilizes multiple satellites to observe the global rainfall situation. This system is applied to a wide

¹² Kibo-ABC (Asian Beneficial Collaboration through "Kibo" Utilization) initiative: An initiative aimed at promoting the use of the ISS/Japanese Experiment Module – Kibo in the Asia Pacific region, and the sharing of its values.

¹³ A program that provides selected organizations with the opportunity to deploy nanosatellites from the ISS/Japanese Experiment Module – Kibo, with the aim of contributing to improving space-related technologies in emerging space-faring nations.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Path Leading Up to the Conclusion of the Framework Agreement between Japan and the United States of America for Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space

Have you ever thought about traveling all the way to the Moon or Mars? Japan has been participating in the Artemis Program, a U.S.-led international lunar exploration program, and aims to realize the landing of a Japanese astronaut on the Moon by the late 2020s. Today, various countries are planning space exploration, including on the Moon. As such, we can say that the world has truly entered a new era of space exploration.

Japan plans to cooperate on many projects with the U.S., including on the development and operation of lunar exploration equipment and astronauts' lunar surface activities. We also expect that cooperation will be further expanded to include a wide range of areas, such as space science and earth observation. In this context, there was a growing need for a new legal framework to facilitate such cooperation even more swiftly and smoothly. To that end, negotiations commenced on the Framework Agreement between Japan and the United States of America for Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

This Agreement sets out the basic matters related to space cooperation to establish a framework that enables the implementation of individual cooperative activities by implementing agencies of Japan and the U.S., including the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and other space-related agencies. For that purpose, during the negotiations for this Agreement, both sides diligently discussed the legal framework necessary for future Japan-U.S. space cooperation and norms for safe and sustainable space activities, looking ahead to scenarios in which Japanese and U.S. astronauts jointly conduct lunar exploration. Some examples include provisions on the jurisdiction over personnel in outer space when engaging in cooperation, and provisions related to planetary protection and mitigation of space debris. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, negotiations had to be conducted online for some time. Eventually, after multiple in-person negotiations while wearing masks, the negotiations culminated in a fruitful result.

On January 13, Foreign Minister Hayashi and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed this Agreement in Washington, D.C. (U.S.). Prime Minister Kishida, who attended the signing ceremony, stated that he strongly expects this Agreement to vigorously promote Japan-U.S. space cooperation and expand areas of cooperation for the Japan-U.S. alliance, which is stronger than ever before.

This Agreement subsequently entered into force in June following the completion of domestic procedures within both Japan and the U.S. This Agreement is expected to further promote space cooperation between the two countries, including the Artemis Program. Furthermore, through their cooperation under this Agreement, Japan and the U.S. are expected to contribute to creating international rules on space activities by implementing safe and sustainable space activities.





The Signing Ceremony of the Framework Agreement between Japan and the United States of America for Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (January 13, Washington, D.C., U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

range of uses, including rainfall situation monitoring, disaster management and agriculture, in 150 countries and regions around the world. Furthermore, Japan took the lead in launching "Sentinel Asia," an initiative to provide free observational satellite information during disasters to contribute to disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region. To date, this project has responded to more than 430 emergency requests from 36 countries. Japan also holds workshops for those who are involved in disaster readiness and response, and contributes to capacity building in the utilization of satellite data during disasters in Asian countries.

In addition, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with JAXA, hosted 16 officials from space-related agencies of 12 countries in Japan from August to September for training to enhance their ability to utilize space technology to contribute to the SDGs. In September and October, JICA also started technical cooperation projects in Rwanda and Paraguay respectively, to improve the organizational and technological capacity of their space agencies (scheduled to last for two years each). In addition, JICA is promoting response to global issues through the use of space technologies in diverse fields, such as the use of satellite technology, under the REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) initiative.

(6) Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

The international community is still experiencing regional and domestic conflicts as a result of various factors including differences in race, religion, and history, or due to the impact of poverty and disparity. In recent years, the protracted nature of these conflicts has particularly become a challenging problem. For this reason, in addition to post-conflict peacekeeping through the dispatch of UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and other means, peacebuilding efforts that take into consideration building a foundation for development have become an important issue for preventing conflicts and their recurrence, as well as realizing post-conflict nation-building and sustaining peace.

In recent years, there have been concerns about the impact of conflicts, as well as new risks such as climate

change and infectious diseases, on peace and stability, necessitating a more unified approach. As issues facing the international community become more complex and diverse, peacebuilding initiatives are becoming increasingly important, as signaled by UN Secretary-General Guterres' call to Member States to strengthen peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts in the "New Agenda for Peace" published in July 2023.

A On-the-Ground Initiatives

(A) UN Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKO)

As of December 31, 2023, 11 UN PKO missions are on active duty, primarily in the Middle East and Africa, to handle a wide range of duties that include monitoring cease-fires, promoting political processes, and protecting civilians. More than 80,000 military, police, and civilian personnel have been deployed to these missions. In response to the increasing complexity and scale of the mandates and the associated shortages of personnel, equipment, and financial resources, discussions on more effective and efficient implementation of UN PKO are underway in various fora including the UN.

In addition to PKO missions, the UN has also established Special Political Missions (SPMs) mainly consisting of civilian personnel. SPMs fulfill diverse roles including the peaceful settlement of disputes, post-conflict peacebuilding, and conflict prevention.

Based on the Act on Cooperation with UN Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO Act), Japan has dispatched more than 12,500 personnel to a total of 29 missions since 1992, including UN PKO missions. Most recently, since 2011, Japanese staff officers have been dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), while engineering units have been deployed there from 2012. The engineering units undertook such activities as developing infrastructure and providing water supplies to displaced persons, and concluded their activities in May 2017. As of December 31, 2023, four Self-Defense Forces of Japan (SDF) officers are on active duty at the UNMISS Headquarters, who continue to work toward peace and stability in the country. Additionally, since 2019, Japan has been conducting activities contributing to peace and stability in the Middle East by dispatching SDF officers to the Headquarters for the Multinational Force

and Observers (MFO) stationed on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, where four SDF officers are on active duty as of December 31, 2023. Leveraging its own strengths, Japan will continue to contribute proactively in the field of international peace cooperation in the future by means such as enhancing capacity building support and dispatching units and individuals.

(B) ODA and Other Cooperation to Facilitate Peacebuilding

In addressing conflicts and humanitarian crises, peacebuilding and preventing the recurrence of conflict even in peacetime, in addition to humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, are important toward the realization of an inclusive society. With the number of refugees and displaced persons in the world exceeding 100 million people for the first time in 2022, there is a greater need than before to address the root causes of crises through assistance for self-reliant development by building resilient nations and stabilizing societies from a medium- to long-term perspective. Japan clearly set out the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus)"14 approach in its Development Cooperation Charter revised in June 2023. At the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held in December, Foreign Minister Kamikawa expressed Japan's resolve to play a leadership role in advancing this approach while cooperating with the international community to address the unprecedented humanitarian crisis, including support for peacebuilding.

a. Middle East

Japan has provided comprehensive support for peace and stability in the Middle East. This includes providing food and refugee assistance, as well as support for the development of human resources who can play an active role in nation-building. As for Palestine, in addition to an increase in the refugee population, it is also facing serious deterioration of the living environment, including the deteriorating refugee camp infrastructure as well as unemployment and poverty. Japan worked on

improving the living environment of refugees through the implementation of the Camp Improvement Project (CIP) at refugee camps in Palestine, as well as by providing support to educational facilities, and contributed to the stabilization and improvement of the people's welfare based on human security.

b. Africa

At the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) in 2022, Japan presented its view of working with African countries to bring about a peaceful and stable Africa. Japan also expressed its intention to strongly support the promotion of the rule of law as well as Africa's own efforts for return to constitutional order and consolidated democracy, and announced the appointment of an Ambassador, Special Envoy for the "Horn of Africa" 15. Under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) proposed at TICAD 7 in 2019, Japan, even after TICAD 8, has continued to respect Africa's ownership while providing support for African-led efforts toward peace and stability through consolidating democracy and promoting the rule of law, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and support toward strengthening the foundations of the community.

For example, Japan has conducted criminal justice training since 2014 for Francophone African countries, and has supported stabilization of the Sahel region by strengthening the capabilities of investigative and judicial bodies. Japan has also provided African countries with security equipment to improve their ability to maintain security against frequent terrorist attacks and transnational crimes, and provided support for landmine clearance.

In South Sudan, along with dispatching personnel to UNMISS Headquarters, in response to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS)¹⁶ signed in 2018, Japan has been supporting the implementation of the agreement and cease-fire monitoring through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

¹⁴ Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus): An approach that combines short-term "humanitarian aid" with the medium- to long-term efforts of "development cooperation" to support refugees in gaining independence and reducing the burden on host countries, as well as "peace initiatives" toward resolving and preventing conflicts, which are the root causes that create refugees.

¹⁵ The "Horn of Africa" refers to the region on the northeastern part of the African continent that protrudes in the shape of a horn toward the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. It encompasses the countries of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya.

¹⁶ As the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan signed in 2015 stalled as a result of clashes in July 2016, the parties involved entered into an agreement (R-ARCSS) once again on establishing an interim government, cease-fire measures, the holding of elections, and other efforts to resolve the conflict.

(IGAD), a regional organization in East Africa, as well as other organizations. Furthermore, Japan, in collaboration with the UNDP, has disbursed a total of 65 million U.S. dollars between 2008 and 2023 to Peacekeeping Training Centers located in 14 African countries, contributing to strengthening Africa's capacity for peacekeeping activities.

B Initiatives within the UN

Against the backdrop of the growing awareness within the international community of the need for peacebuilding efforts, the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established based on UN Security Council resolution 1645 and a General Assembly resolution of 2005, as an advisory body to the UN Security Council and General Assembly, with the aim of providing consistent advice on assistance, from conflict resolution to recovery, reintegration and reconstruction. In addition to conducting discussions on the approach to peacebuilding in countries and regions, the PBC also engages in discussions on themes such as Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). In recent years, there have been increasing opportunities for the PBC to fulfill its advisory function to the UN Security Council and General Assembly.

Japan has consistently served as a member of the Organizational Committee since the PBC's establishment, advocating the importance of investments in institution building and people from the viewpoint that it is necessary to adopt an approach based on the HDP Nexus, in order to realize resilient and sustainable peace.

Japan has contributed a total of 63.07 million U.S. dollars to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)¹⁷ as of December 31, 2023, and as a major donor country, also actively supports the execution of projects implemented by UN agencies in Africa and other regions.

Japan continues to address peacebuilding as one of its priorities during its two-year term on the UN Security Council starting from January 2023. It hosted an Open Debate on peacebuilding during its Presidency of the UN Security Council in January 2023, focusing not only on Ukraine, but also various

challenges faced by the so-called "Global South." The debate also emphasized the role of people in building and sustaining peace, and underscored the importance of strengthening the UN's functions through means such as utilization of the PBC by the UN Security Council. Representatives from 74 countries delivered statements at this Debate, and many countries supported Japan's views.

Furthermore, Japan has been engaging in efforts in the area of peacebuilding in cooperation with other members of the UN Security Council. For example, the ministerial-level Open Debate on peacebuilding during Switzerland's Presidency of the UN Security Council in May was attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs AKIMOTO Masatoshi, representing Japan. He stressed the importance of human security through investing in people, and also spoke about the role that the UN Security Council should play in regard to peacebuilding. In addition, Japan, Guyana, and Mozambique co-hosted a meeting in January 2024 based on the theme "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace through Comprehensive Approaches— Investment in People, including Empowerment of Women." During this meeting, Japan actively communicated its position, bringing up the importance of investing in people, including the empowerment of women, in peacebuilding. In these ways, Japan has been stimulating discussions not only as a PBC member state, but also in UN fora as a member of the UN Security Council, in order to prompt in-depth sharing on the importance of peacebuilding efforts.

C Human Resource Development

(A) The Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development

Human resource development for highly skilled civilian experts with expertise presents a challenge in the field of post-conflict peacebuilding. Japan has been implementing a human resource development program in order to cultivate people who can play a leading role in the field. As of the end of 2023, more than 900 people have been trained. The participants

¹⁷ A fund established in October 2006 to provide support to regions, including Africa, for stopping the recurrence of regional conflicts and civil wars after they have ended as well as preventing conflicts. Specifically, the fund supports peace processes and political dialogues, economic revitalization, institution building for nations, and the participation by women and youth in nation-building, among other initiatives.

who complete the program go on to play an active role in the field of peacebuilding and development in Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world, and have received high acclaim from different countries. Out of the 215 participants who have completed the training course (primary course) for entry-level human resources, 113 work in international organizations (as regular staff, as well as JPO, UN volunteers, and consultants). Hence, this program also contributes significantly to the career development of Japanese nationals, as well as the enhancement of their presence in international organizations in the fields of peacebuilding and development. In 2023, the primary course and a training course for mid-career professionals with experience in the fields of peacebuilding and development were conducted (See the Column on page 227).

(B) Training for Peacekeepers of Various Countries Japan has been supporting peacekeepers from various countries participating in UN PKO to enhance their capabilities. Since 2015, in conjunction with cooperative efforts among the UN, supporting member states, and troop contributing countries, Japan has contributed financially to the Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP), a framework for innovative cooperation aimed at addressing the urgent need to improve the capabilities of PKO personnel by providing necessary training and equipment. Japan has also dispatched SDF personnel and other individuals as instructors. To date, Japan has conducted training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 312 personnel from eight African countries that expressed intentions to dispatch engineering units to UN PKO. In 2018, the TPP was extended to include Asia and the surrounding regions, and Japan conducted training in Viet Nam and Indonesia. Since October 2019, Japan has also started a lifesaving training program in the medical field, a considerably problematic area for UN PKO, while support for the introduction of telemedicine into UN PKO missions was launched from 2021. In 2023, Japan dispatched one SDF medical officer to the UN Field Medical Assistants Course (UNFMAC) held in Uganda in July. Japan has dispatched as many as 317

SDF personnel and other individuals as instructors for the operation of heavy engineering equipment and in the field of medicine. Furthermore, Japan decided in 2023 to contribute approximately 8.5 million U.S. dollars to expand the TPP and conduct training for personnel dispatched for peace support activities led by the African Union (AU). Other than TPP, Japan dispatches instructors and other personnel, as well as providing financial assistance, to Peacekeeping Training Centers in Asia and Africa.

(7) Initiatives to Combat Security Threats

Ensuring public security and protecting the lives of the people are the premise of various socioeconomic activities and the basic responsibilities of a country. To cope effectively with security threats such as international terrorism and organized crime, which are rapidly becoming more complex and severe in tandem with social changes such as the advancement of science and technology and the spread of COVID-19, it is vital for the international community to cooperate as a whole.

A Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Since the end of 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased people's reliance on information and communications technology. It has also had a major impact on the environment surrounding terrorism. Terrorists continue to carry out their terrorist activities in Asia and other parts of the world while adapting to the new social circumstances that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the weakening of governance as well as social divisions brought about by the manifestation of poverty and racial and ethnic issues. Furthermore, the spread of extremism or recruiting through the Internet and social media, as well as the tendency of acquiring funding for terrorism by using crypto-assets and other means, have become more conspicuous. In October 2023, Japan, as the G7 Presidency, hosted the G7 Roma-Lyon Group Meeting¹⁸ in Tokyo. In conjunction with this meeting, Japan invited the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)¹⁹ to attend, with a view

¹⁸ A framework to facilitate discussions among G7 experts on how to respond to priority issues in efforts to counter international terrorism and international organized crime. It provides opportunities for reaching a common position within the G7. Results of discussions are fed back into G7 leaders and ministerial meetings.

¹⁹ A private-sector forum established by IT companies for the purpose of jointly preventing the spread of terrorism and violent extremism on the Internet.

COLUMN

Participating in the Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development

KOJIMA Hideaki, Associate Field Officer (UN Volunteer), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Republic of Moldova

I am KOJIMA Hideaki, a trainee in the Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through this program, I work as a UN Volunteer at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Moldova.

Do you know of a country called Moldova? Located on the edge of Europe, Moldova has a history of always being at the mercy of its powerful neighbors, and even today, is known as the poorest country in Europe. Moldova currently hosts about 110,000 refugees who have fled from Ukraine, making up approximately 4% of its total population. Accepting such a large number of refugees is particularly difficult for this small country that is not endowed with abundant financial and human resources. UNHCR's mission is to protect refugees and resolve refugee issues under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention) and other agreements. It engages in a wide range of activities, including distributing cash and relief supplies, providing legal and physical protection to refugees who have fled to Moldova, and offering technical and material assistance to the government of Moldova.

When I first took up the position in Moldova as a member of the field team, I often visited the border between Moldova and Ukraine, the Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs), local organizations providing assistance, and other places to conduct interviews on problems faced by refugees as well as their needs, and to provide necessary responses. Currently, I am working as a member of the inter-agency coordination team. In a refugee situation, various stakeholders are involved in humanitarian assistance, including government agencies, UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and international/national NGOs. The role of the inter-agency coordination team is to take the lead together with the government of the host country to decide on a response plan for assistance activities, encourage all the relevant organizations to conduct their activities in line with this plan, and ensure that assistance is provided equitably to everyone in need without duplication. Within this team, I am responsible for the Local Refugee Coordination Forums set up in

seven cities in Moldova. My job is to bridge between regional actors providing support to refugees with the country-level actors, such as facilitating collaboration among aid organizations in each region, identifying region-specific challenges, flagging the challenges to relevant agencies or the country-level refugee coordination structure, and to address these problems. As a member of UNHCR, I also led the inter-agency winterization taskforce to assess winter needs among people before the long and harsh winter in Moldova, and develop a winterization plan. This year, in addition to providing cash assistance, we are reinforcing infrastructure for the houses of economically vulnerable households and community facilities in rural cities.

Having experienced working here first-hand, I see every day how even UN agencies such as UNHCR are faced with many limitations in their activities. Nevertheless, it is a very rewarding job that gives me the opportunity to hear directly from refugees and host communities about difficulties they face, think about what solutions UNHCR can offer, and be involved in formulating policies to assist refugees. It has been my dream since high school to work in UNHCR to support refugees who have been denied their rights and threatened their safety. That is why I feel fortunate to have the chance to actually work in UNHCR today. Every day, I learn from my colleagues who have a wealth of experience from their previous missions in various humanitarian crises, and one day, I hope to become a humanitarian professional just like them.



Workshop to formulate the Refugee Response Plan (the author is in the center)



With the Ambassador of Japan to Moldova and the UNHCR Representative in the Republic of Moldova at a Refugee Accommodation Centre (the author is first from the left of the front row)

to deepening discussions on countering online terrorism, including measures to address terrorist contents.

Based on the "G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism" compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, Japan has to date implemented the following actions: (1) measures to enhance counter-terrorism capacity, which include promoting the utilization of Interpol databases and measures against the funding of terrorism, (2) education and promotion of moderation in communities through dialogues and other means, in order to prevent violent extremism, which is a root cause of terrorism, and (3) support for capacity building of law enforcement agencies, including measures to support rehabilitation in prisons. In addition to these efforts, Japan, in order to steadily promote measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism mainly in Southeast Asia, has been implementing projects with various organizations including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), among others, by using their advantages and expertise respectively.

As an initiative that Japan has carried out continuously for the past 20 years, Japan has also run an exchange program inviting Islamic school teachers from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines and providing opportunities to experience interfaith dialogue, intercultural exchanges, and visit educational sites in Japan. While this was suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was resumed in 2022. Japan will continue to implement the program going forward, in order to help promote moderation and the creation of more tolerant societies that are receptive to different values.

Through bilateral and trilateral counter-terrorism consultations and the Quad (Japan-Australia-India-U.S.) Counter-Terrorism Working Group, among other initiatives, Japan also exchanges information on terrorism situations and affirms the strengthening of partnerships, while developing practical cooperation with other countries.

Based on the view that information gathering is critical for countering terrorism, the Government of Japan established the Counter Terrorism Unit - Japan (CTU-J) in December 2015 and has been making concerted efforts to gather information with the Prime Minister's

Office serving as the control tower. To fulfill the critical responsibility of securing the safety of Japanese nationals overseas, Japan will continue to further enhance its information gathering through the CTU-J and take all possible measures to counter terrorism to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals overseas.

B Criminal Justice Initiatives

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ("Congress") (both of which have their secretariats under UNODC) are in charge of shaping policy on crime prevention and criminal justice in the international community. In March 2021, the 14th Congress ("Kyoto Congress") was convened in Kyoto. In accordance with the overall theme, "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda," the political declaration ("Kyoto Declaration"), summarizing the matters that should be addressed over the medium- to long-term by the international community in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, was adopted. Since then, in cooperation with UNODC and other organizations, Japan has been demonstrating its leadership in advancing such initiatives as; (1) regularly convening the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific as a platform for information sharing and exchanges of opinions between practitioners in the field of criminal justice in the Asia-Pacific region; (2) regularly holding the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness, with the aim of facilitating independent discussions among youths, and incorporating their views into policies; (3) working toward the formulation of UN model strategies to promote efforts by the international community to reduce reoffending. In addition, Japan proactively engages in following up on the Kyoto Declaration through efforts such as supporting theme-based discussions on the Kyoto Declaration conducted by UNODC.

At the session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice convened in May 2023, Japan submitted a draft resolution to continue following up on the Kyoto Declaration, and this resolution was adopted unanimously. As a result, the outcomes of the Kyoto Congress will be carried on to the 15th Congress (hosted by United Arab Emirates) in 2026 (See the Column on page 229).

COLUMN

Serving as a Rapporteur (Reporter) at a UN Conference

YAMAZAKI Jun, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna

Rapporteur, please explain the draft report."

It is 1:30 a.m. at night on Saturday, May 27, on a podium at the 32nd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). As the Rapporteur who was prompted by the Chair, I turned on the microphone and started speaking.

• Who is the Rapporteur (Reporter)?

A Rapporteur is a person who compiles and reports on the contents and results of the discussions at a conference. In my case, I was assigned to summarize in a report the discussions at the 32nd session of the CCPCJ, held over a week from Monday, May 22 to Friday, May 26. Usually, a Rapporteur explains a report at a meeting held on Friday afternoon, and the report becomes official after it has been adopted unanimously.



The author explaining the report (1:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, Vienna, Austria. The author is on the right end of the podium, shown on the screen)

Run, Rapporteur!

The main themes for the week were "enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice" and the "implementation status of the Kyoto Declaration, which is the outcome document of the Kyoto Congress." My job was to summarize the views presented by the participating countries on these themes. As the Rapporteur, I had to compile the report by Friday, so I prepared the draft with the help of the CCPCJ Secretariat. A Rapporteur is only an official of this meeting, or in other words, an official of the UN that is separate from my position as an official of the Government of Japan. At the same time, I was also a member of the delegation from the Government of Japan attending this meeting. Therefore, I was fulfilling two roles at the same time: drafting a report in my role as a UN official, while participating in negotiations on the resolution, supporting officials who were visiting from Tokyo, and preparing for the side events hosted by Japan as a member of the government delegation from Japan. I was constantly busy and running around. Even the diplomats from other countries remarked, "You're everywhere, just like a ninja." For example, I received a call from the Secretariat asking, "Where are you, Jun? We want to discuss how to write the report." Then, the ninja hurried off to meet with the Secretariat. Once the discussion ended, the ninja returned to providing support on the ground as a member of the Japanese delegation. After that, the Secretariat called me again. Simply put, I was always running throughout this one-week period.

When preparing the report, I encountered the difficult problem of how to incorporate statements made by a certain country that seemed to be critical of other countries, even if the countries targeted were not explicitly named. Since it is a fact that the statements had been made, not including them in the report would lead to opposition from that country. On the other hand, the countries that had been criticized would also not remain silent if these statements were incorporated. Therefore, I referred to the writing style of past reports and used as moderate wording as possible.

The draft report was shared with the participating countries on Thursday afternoon so that they could review it. Then, on the night of the same day, I received queries asking, "Jun, what is the meaning of this?" from the representing officials of the countries that had been criticized in the statements made by the abovementioned country. I hurried off again, meeting the representative officials from these countries individually, explaining the contents to them, and seeking their understanding.

Friday finally came. This time, however, negotiations on the resolution hit a deadlock, and it became impossible to tell when the negotiations would reach their conclusion. As the resolution forms a part of the report, the report could not be adopted until the resolution was finalized. When the resolution was eventually finalized, it was past midnight. Thus, after the chaos settled, I finally made it to the podium at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 27.

Toward the adoption of the report

"Does anyone have comments on the draft report explained by the Rapporteur?" the Chair asked the attendees. His question was followed by a comfortable silence. To my surprise, not even one country asked to speak! The sound of the Chair pounding his gavel echoed across the room, and the draft report was successfully adopted as the official report at about 2:00 a.m. on Saturday. After the conference, I heard from the Secretariat that it was the first time in CCPCJ's history, spanning more than 30 years, that the report had been adopted without a single amendment. Both the Chair and the Secretariat were pleased, and the participating countries also expressed their appreciation. I may have worked steadily and earnestly, just like a "ninja" who never stood out, but everyone had witnessed my hard work and efforts. I hope that my work as a Rapporteur contributed to boosting Japan's presence in the international community.

1 The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (typically referred to as "the Congress"). Convened once every five years, it is the largest UN conference covering the field of crime. The 14th Congress held in March 2021 was hosted by Japan, and took place at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto City.

Furthermore, Japan provides support to improve prosecution capabilities and other criminal justice functions, to improve the operation of prisons, and to enhance capacities related to measures against cybercrime in Southeast Asian countries, by providing financial contributions to UNODC and Interpol, as well as contributions through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

Through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)²⁰, training on offender treatment, crime prevention, and anti-crime measures are conducted in Japan, contributing to the capacity building of criminal justice officers and other relevant personnel from various countries.

Japan is a State Party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), which establishes a global legal framework for promoting cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime including terrorism more effectively. Japan advances international cooperation that includes providing international assistance in investigations in accordance with the UNTOC and reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

C Anti-corruption Measures

There is growing global interest in addressing corruption, which has been pointed out as a factor that threatens sustainable development and the rule of law. Against this backdrop, Japan, as a State Party to the UN Convention

against Corruption (UNCAC), which sets out provisions for international cooperation and measures to address corruption such as bribery and embezzlement of property by public officials, actively participates in discussions for the effective implementation of the UNCAC and the strengthening of international cooperation on preventing and combating corruption. In September, under the UNCAC review mechanism (mutual reviews conducted among the State Parties), an executive summary was published on the results of a country review conducted on Japan's implementation of the UNCAC regarding the provisions for criminalization and law enforcement (Chapter III) and international cooperation (Chapter IV). Japan also participates actively in the activities of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and has contributed to formulating high-level principles in areas related to anti-corruption, including strengthening international cooperation on law enforcement and promoting integrity among authorities that are responsible for preventing corruption. In August 2023, Japan attended the ministerial meeting held for the second time since the establishment of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. After discussions on strengthening the international anti-corruption framework, the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting Outcome Document and Chair's Summary were adopted. In addition, Japan conducts the International Training Course on the Criminal Justice Response to Corruption in Japan through the UNAFEI.

Japan is an active participant in the OECD Working Group on Bribery, which verifies the implementation

²⁰ A regional UN research institute established in 1962 based on an agreement between the Government of Japan and the UN. Located in Akishima City, Tokyo, it is operated by the Ministry of Justice, and continuously implements training courses in the field of criminal justice for participants invited from overseas.

of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions by each state party to prevent the bribery of foreign public officials.

Measures to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

Regarding anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) measures, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an international framework that establishes the international standards that countries should implement and conducts peer reviews to assess levels of implementation. In recent years, the FATF has also been engaged in initiatives to prevent financing for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and has issued the FATF statement that calls for the eradication of illegal financial activities by North Korea.

As a founding member, Japan has actively participated in these discussions. The Fourth Round Mutual Evaluation Report of Japan was adopted at the FATF Plenary held in June 2021, and was published at the end of August the same year. Japan is steadily making preparations and implementing measures to address the points for improvement raised in this Report.

In addition, Japan takes measures to counter the financing of terrorism as a State Party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and also implements its own response measures to freeze the assets of terrorists and terrorist entities in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1373,²¹ and designations by the UN Security Council Taliban Sanctions Committee and the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. In light of the terror attacks against Israel by Hamas and others on October 7, 2023, Japan designated nine individuals and one entity related to Hamas as subjects for asset freezing and other measures on October 31, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1373. After that, it additionally designated three individuals related to Hamas on December 26. As of December 31, 2023, Japan has implemented asset freezing measures on 410 individuals and 120 entities in total.

Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

To effectively combat increasingly sophisticated and obscure trafficking in persons, Japan has strengthened its domestic system in accordance with its "2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons," while proactively providing assistance to developing countries. For example, in 2023, Japan continued to conduct training programs through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to deepen mutual understanding on human trafficking countermeasures (especially prevention, victim protection and support to restore the financial independence of victims) of stakeholders in Asian countries, including Japan, and to promote more effective regional cooperation. Furthermore, Japan has been implementing a technical cooperation project with the Government of Thailand via JICA since January 2022, and in August 2023, held a workshop on human trafficking countermeasures to strengthen networks among those involved in such countermeasures in the Mekong region. Japan has been engaged in technical cooperation with the government of Cambodia through JICA, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the relevant organizations to support victims of human trafficking. With respect to cooperation with international organizations, in 2023, through funding to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan continued to provide assistance for the safe repatriation of foreign victims of trafficking in persons protected in Japan, and to carry out social reintegration assistance programs to prevent the recurrence of trafficking after they return to their countries. Japan also provided support to strengthen response capabilities, including training programs for law enforcement authorities, by funding projects organized by UNODC in Southeast Asia.

As a State Party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Japan has also further deepened its cooperation with other countries with a view to combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (See the Column on page 232).

²¹ Adopted by the UN Security Council in September 2001 after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S. in the same year. It calls for UN Member States to take comprehensive measures against those who undertake acts of terrorism and those who have involvement with such actors, such as by freezing their assets.

COLUMN

UNESCO's Educational and Humanitarian Support to Help Children at the Thai-Myanmar Border

KAI Toshiya, Consultant, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Myanmar is a country in Asia, like Japan is. While the majority of its people are said to be Buddhists, many Japanese people may not be familiar with the country. On the other hand, in its neighboring country of Thailand, another Southeast Asian country, there is a large number of Japanese people, and it is visited by millions of tourists worldwide.

Since the military coup d'état in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, the number of evacuees, including children, from Myanmar to Thailand is increasing rapidly near the border. This situation has become a humanitarian and social issue. Just in June 2022, the number of people from Myanmar who entered Tak Province in northern Thailand irregularly was estimated at 10,500 (according to a survey conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)). Of these, more than 2,000 new arrivals to Thailand were children of schooling age who have been deprived of school education for years. A rise in the number of children who are unable to attend school poses a significant risk of human trafficking, child labor, and exploitation. Girls, in particular, are at greater risk of falling prey to sexual exploitation outside schools. The Migrant Educational Coordination Centre (MECC) under the Ministry of Education of Thailand is working hard to coordinate with 64 Migrant Learning Centres (MLCs) to manage the education of more than 10,000 children in Tak Province. However, its financial resources are extremely limited.

Since its establishment, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been promoting international cooperation in the fields of education, sciences, culture, and communication, as well as in projects to support developing countries. In these areas of work, it also addresses the personnel and institutional aspects of crisis preparedness, rescue and relief, recovery, and reconstruction. Particularly in the field of education, it provides support to enable access to quality education with the aim of building a foundation for sustainable recovery and long-term development.

In light of the deteriorating situation at the Thai-Myanmar border, UNESCO, with support from the Government of Japan, has launched an emergency educational and humanitarian support project in Tak Province to provide displaced children with a safe space and access to learning. From the perspective of the UN's humanitarian-development-peace cooperation (HDP nexus), this project is strengthening the links between humanitarian action, development, and peace by promoting social cohesion (promoting equality, justice, tolerance, respect, and diversity through education), building social resilience, promoting dialogue, and strengthening ownership of the region. Specifically, various forms of support are provided, including ensuring continued learning for approximately 3,000 migrant children and providing food assistance and hygiene management, providing ICT equipment and Internet services to enable access to online learning programs, developing quality video courses for main subjects that are in line with the basic educational curriculum prescribed by the Ministry of Education of Myanmar, and offering Thai language classes so that migrant children and youths can transfer from MLCs to schools in Thailand. Support is also provided to about 100 teachers, including the provision of opportunities to learn about sociability and emotions. More than double the number of students is enrolled in the target MLCs, so the ability to access online learning programs from remote locations means that more children who require assistance can benefit from the renovation



School meal at an MLC (August 15, Thailand; Photo: MECC TAK PASEO 2)



Learning in progress at an MLC (December, Thailand; Photo: MECC TAK PASEO 2)

of MLCs and such online learning programs. Through this project, migrants and socially vulnerable children are given safe, appropriate, and inclusive opportunities to continue learning, alongside improving their physical and mental health, and reducing learning loss. In this way, it is expected that the project will promote peace at the Thai-Myanmar border. Even after the conclusion of the project, we also plan to build partnerships with other UN agencies, government organizations, foundations, Japanese corporations, NGOs, and other entities, so that continued support can be provided to the children.

Measures to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking

In cooperation with UNODC, Japan is contributing to investigations and development of analytical information for interdiction of the production, manufacturing, and trafficking of precursor chemicals and newly emerged synthetic drugs, and the maintenance and enhancement of cooperative networks. Alongside strengthening practical capabilities for cross-border drug control, providing support for the production of alternative crops to reduce illicit cultivation of plant materials for drug, and preparing information for regulation of the controlled substances, Japan is also working to take measures against the global proliferation of illicit drugs while giving consideration to region-specific development challenges in the area of drug control.

Disarmament and Nonproliferation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

(1) Nuclear Disarmament

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan has the responsibility to lead the international efforts to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

However, the path toward a world without nuclear weapons has become even more severe due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, North Korea's nuclear and missile development, and China's nuclear enhancement without transparency. Furthermore, as seen in the situation surrounding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), there exists an apparent divergence of views on how best to advance nuclear disarmament, a divergence that exists not only between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States but also among non-nuclear-weapon States that are exposed to the threat of nuclear weapons and those that are not. Considering these circumstances, it is necessary to persistently advance realistic and practical efforts, while

bridge-building between states with divergent views, in order to promote nuclear disarmament.

With the aim of realizing a world without nuclear weapons, Japan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Kishida, who hails from Hiroshima, is steadily advancing efforts toward nuclear disarmament. In particular, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May in the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, the leaders of participating countries had the opportunity to learn firsthand the reality of atomic bombing. Furthermore, the G7 leaders engaged in candid discussions and affirmed their commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. They also issued the "G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament," the first stand-alone G7 leaders' document focusing on nuclear disarmament, emphasizing the importance of maintaining and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime, which both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States participate in, and increased the momentum of the international community toward realizing a world without nuclear weapons. It is historically significant that the G7 leaders, who listened to the voices of atomic-bombing survivors, learned firsthand the reality of the atomic bombing, and learned directly of the feelings of people who wish for peace, have issued the "G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament." Japan will continue realistic and practical efforts by building on this Vision as a solid platform, and implementing each of the initiatives under the "Hiroshima Action Plan"22 announced by Prime Minister Kishida at the NPT Review Conference in 2022.

Furthermore, Japan has continued to pursue bridge-building between states with divergent views. It has done this, for example, through holding meetings of the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP), submitting the Resolution on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons to the UN General Assembly, and cooperation and collaboration with like-minded countries, including within the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), as well as individual consultations. Moreover, Japan

²² Proposed by Prime Minister Kishida at the NPT Review Conference in August 2022. As the first step of a realistic roadmap to take us from the "reality" we face in the harsh security environment to the "ideal" of a world without nuclear weapons, it is rooted in the following five actions alongside efforts to reduce nuclear risks: (1) shared recognition on the importance of continuing the record of non-use of nuclear weapons; (2) enhancing transparency; (3) maintaining the decreasing trend of the global nuclear stockpile; (4) securing nuclear non-proliferation and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and, (5) encouraging visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by international leaders and others.

intends to continue maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime through cumulative efforts including through building up realistic and practical efforts, such as encouraging states to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to commence negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), promoting education on disarmament and non-proliferation, and further, discussions and exercises with nuclear-weapon States toward the realization of effective nuclear disarmament verification.

The TPNW is an important treaty that could be regarded as a final passage to a world without nuclear weapons. However, not a single nuclear-weapon State has joined the TPNW, even though the engagement of nuclear-weapon States is indispensable to change the reality. Therefore, instead of addressing the situation through signing and ratifying the TPNW, Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, must make efforts to involve nuclear-weapon States. To that end, Japan first intends to advance realistic and practical measures toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, based on the foundation of trust built with its only ally, the U.S.

⚠ Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Japan places great importance on maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime, which is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. NPT Review Conferences have been held once every five years with the aim of achieving the goals of the NPT and ensuring compliance with its provisions, and discussions that reflect the international situation of the time have been held since the NPT entered into force in 1970.

The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2026 was convened from July 31 to August 11 at the UN Office in Vienna. State Minister for Foreign Affairs TAKEI Shunsuke represented Japan at this meeting, during which he delivered a statement at the general debate as the first speaker. He stated that, maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime is in the interest of the

international community as a whole, especially because the path toward a world without nuclear weapons has become ever more challenging, and that Japan will continue to advance realistic and practical efforts under the "Hiroshima Action Plan." He also referred to the contents of the Comprehensive Report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) published in July regarding the discharge of ALPS treated water²³ into the sea, and stated that Japan has provided sincere explanations based on scientific evidence to the international community in a highly transparent manner, and would continue to do so in the future.

While it was meaningful that States Parties demonstrated a common recognition of the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime toward the next NPT Review Conference in 2026, and held candid exchanges in person, it was regrettable that the Chair was ultimately unable to submit the Chair's Summary as a working paper due to opposing views from some countries. These divisions within the international community must be overcome in the future. Nevertheless, this meeting served to reaffirm the firm and widely shared recognition that maintaining and strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, with the NPT as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, is in the interest of the entire international community.

International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP)

In January 2022, Prime Minister Kishida announced in his Policy Speech to the Diet that the IGEP will serve as an opportunity for participants from nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, as well as those from countries participating and not participating in the TPNW, to exchange ideas and thoughts beyond their respective national positions, with the involvement of former and incumbent political leaders of the world, and engage in candid discussions concerning a concrete path toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

Following the first meeting held in December 2022, the second meeting was held in Tokyo on April 4 and

²³ ALPS treated water is water which is processed by devices such as ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) to ensure that the radioactive materials other than tritium surely meet the regulatory standards for safety. ALPS treated water is then sufficiently diluted so that the concentrations of the radioactive materials including tritium is far below the regulatory standards for safety, and then finally discharged into the sea.



Third Meeting of the IGEP (December 8 to 9, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

5. In addition to three Japanese members, including Chair SHIRAISHI Takashi (Chancellor of the Prefectural University of Kumamoto), six non-Japanese members from both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States also attended the meeting, making nine members in total participating in person. Five other non-Japanese members also attended the meeting online. The IGEP members concurred on compiling a concrete message based on the discussions at this meeting as to provide input to the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2026. Based on the recognition that the international community is facing grave and unprecedented nuclear challenges, and that it is imperative to transform the current crisis into an opportunity to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime in particular by upholding and strengthening the NPT regime, the message delivered set out the following priority measures that should be addressed in the next NPT review cycle starting from the first session of the Preparatory Committee: (1) "reinforcing and expanding norms," such as prohibition of using or threatening to use nuclear weapons; (2) "taking concrete measures," such as engaging in dialogue on establishing new arms control arrangements; and, (3) "revitalizing and strengthening the NPT review process."

The third meeting was held in Nagasaki on December 8 and 9, and three Japanese members, including Chair Shiraishi, as well as 10 non-Japanese members from nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States attended the meeting, making a total of 13 members who attended the meeting in person. One non-Japanese member participated in the meeting virtually. In addition, the Rt Hon. the Lord Browne of Ladyton, Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom

(former Secretary of State for Defence) attended in person as a political leader, and Dr. TOMONAGA Masao, Honorary Director of the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital participated in person in the capacity of an expert from the host city.

Prime Minister Kishida attended the closing session. In his statement, he expressed that the significance of the IGEP lies in renewing the shared determination to ensure that "Nagasaki is the last place to suffer an atomic bombing" through candid discussions, and that he will continue to demonstrate strong leadership toward a world without nuclear weapons, while also taking into account the sage views of the IGEP.

At this meeting, the IGEP members engaged in an in-depth review of the challenges in advancing nuclear disarmament from today's perspective of changes in the international security environment and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). They also began consideration of the final product of the IGEP for the 2026 NPT Review Conference. With the firm resolve to ensure that "Nagasaki is the last place to suffer an atomic bombing," they concurred that further strengthening diplomatic efforts and political leadership are vital to avoid greater instability to the international security environment surrounding nuclear disarmament.

Japan Chair for a world without nuclear weapons

In his address at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 19, Prime Minister Kishida announced the establishment of "Japan Chair for a world without nuclear weapons" at overseas research institutes and think tanks with a 3 billion Japanese yen contribution, based on the recognition that multi-layered efforts, not just the government efforts, are important in order to steadily advance the trend of "mainstreaming" nuclear disarmament.

The "Japan Chair" initiative supports the establishment of specialized posts for nuclear disarmament ("Japan Chair for a world without nuclear weapons") at leading overseas research institutes and think tanks, with a view to stimulating discussions on "realistic and practical nuclear disarmament" for which Japan advocates, as well as contributing to overcoming divisions in the international community. Activities are expected to commence in 2024.

■ The Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)

The NPDI, a group of 12 non-nuclear-weapon States from various regions established under the leadership of Japan and Australia in 2010 has served as a bridge between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States. It leads efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through its realistic and practical proposals. In August 2022, Prime Minister Kishida attended the 11th NPDI High-level Meeting held in New York, as the first Prime Minister of Japan to attend this NPDI High-level Meeting. A Joint High-level Statement was released after the meeting, which expressed NPDI's resolve to remain committed to fostering the sustained, high-level political leadership and diplomatic dialogue needed to strengthen the implementation of the NPT.

The NPDI has actively contributed to the NPT review process through realistic and practical proposals, including the submission of 19 working papers to the Ninth NPT Review process and 18 to the Tenth NPT Review process. At the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2026 held from July to August 2023, NPDI released a joint statement and submitted joint working papers on transparency (reporting) and accountability, as well as on strengthening review process of the NPT. In addition, at the working group on further strengthening the review process of the NPT, convened shortly before the Preparatory Committee, concrete discussions were held on the need to enhance transparency as well as accountability by presenting in national reports, for which Japan has long advocated through the NPDI.

Initiatives Through the United Nations (Resolution on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons)

Since 1994, Japan has submitted draft resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly. They incorporate issues of the time related to nuclear disarmament with a view to presenting a realistic and concrete nuclear disarmament approach proposed by Japan to the international community. Recognizing the need to present a way forward for realistic and practical measures to realize a world without nuclear weapons, the 2023 draft resolution submitted by Japan took into

consideration discussions at the G7 Hiroshima Summit and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2026, and focused on calling on the international community to implement concrete measures particularly to advance efforts regarding a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and to enhance transparency, in order to further realize and promote the "Hiroshima Action Plan" proposed by Prime Minister Kishida at the 10th NPT Review Conference in August 2022. The resolution was adopted with the broad support of 145 countries at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in October and of 148 countries at the Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly in December. The states supporting the resolution have divergent views, including nuclear-weapon States such as the U.S. and UK, as well as U.S. allies such as NATO member countries, Australia, the ROK, and the states advocating the TPNW. While other resolutions that comprehensively addressed nuclear disarmament were submitted to the General Assembly in addition to Japan's draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons, Japan has enjoyed support among a larger number of states. Every year, Japan's resolutions continue to enjoy the broad support of states with divergent views in the international community.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Japan attaches great importance to promoting the entry into force of the CTBT as a realistic measure of nuclear disarmament where both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States can participate.

The 13th Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the CTBT was held in September during the



Foreign Minister Kamikawa delivering a statement at the 13th Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the CTBT (September 22, New York, U.S.)

UN General Assembly High-Level Week. Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended the conference and delivered a statement. She explained that Japan attaches great importance to the early entry into force of the CTBT as a realistic and practical nuclear disarmament measure, and emphasizing that the relevance of the CTBT has never been greater, called for cooperation of the international community to advance the Treaty.

With regard to developments among states whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, which ratified the CTBT in 2000, signed a bill to revoke its ratification in November 2023, and the bill has entered into force. Taking into consideration that Russia is a state whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, as well as the largest nuclear-weapon State among the States Signatories and States Parties of the CTBT, Russia's decision to revoke its ratification of the CTBT goes against the international community's longstanding efforts. In light of that, Japan has issued a Statement by Foreign Minister and other statements condemning Russia's decision.

G Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty²⁴ (FMCT)

A Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) would have great significance for both disarmament and non-proliferation, as it would prevent the emergence of new states possessing nuclear-weapons by banning the production of fissile materials such as highly-enriched

uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons. At the same time, it would limit the production of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States. However, no consensus has been reached on commencing negotiations for a Treaty despite decades of discussions in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Consequently, it was decided at the 71st UN General Assembly in 2016 to establish the FMCT High-Level Experts Preparatory Group, and Japan actively participated in the Group's discussions.

Furthermore, during the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September 2023, Prime Minister Kishida co-hosted the Commemorative High-Level Event on an FMCT together with the Philippines and Australia. The purpose of this event was to refocus political attention toward an FMCT on the occasion of this year that marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for an FMCT. In his keynote speech, Prime Minister Kishida pointed out that, for the first time since the peak of the Cold War, the world is on the cusp of a reversal of the decreasing trend of the global number of nuclear arsenals, making it even more necessary to start early negotiations on an FMCT. Attendees from the respective countries engaged in active exchange of views, and this event provided an opportunity for refocusing political interest on an FMCT.





Prime Minister Kishida delivering an address at the Commemorative High-Level Event on an FMCT (September 19, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

²⁴ A treaty concept that aims to prevent the increase in the number of nuclear weapons by prohibiting the production of fissile materials (such as enriched uranium and plutonium) that are used as materials to produce nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

☐ Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan places great importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education. Specifically, Japan has been actively engaged in efforts to convey the reality of atomic bombings to people around the world, through activities such as translating the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors into other languages, invitations for young diplomats from various countries to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki through the UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, providing assistance for holding atomic bomb exhibitions overseas, and designating atomic bomb survivors who have given testimonies of their atomic bomb experiences as "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons."

At the General Debate of the NPT Review Conference held in August 2022, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan would contribute 10 million U.S. dollars to the UN for the establishment of the "Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons." The goal of this program is to create a global network of future generations with the shared goal toward the elimination of nuclear weapons by bringing future leaders such as young policymakers and researchers from both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to Japan to learn firsthand the reality of atomic bombings. The training under this Fund commenced in December 2023.

Additionally, as the atomic bomb survivors are aging, it is becoming increasingly important to pass on the realities of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings across generations and borders. To this end, from 2013 to 2023, Japan conferred the designation of "Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" on more than 600 youths in Japan and overseas.

Initiatives Toward Future Arms Control

In the area of nuclear disarmament, in addition to initiatives through multilateral frameworks such as the NPT, the U.S. and Russia have also concluded and maintained a bilateral arms control treaty. On

February 3, 2021, the two countries agreed on an extension to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty). The New START Treaty demonstrates important progress in nuclear disarmament between the U.S. and Russia, and Japan welcomed this extension. However, in August 2022, Russia announced the exemption of all its facilities from inspection activities temporarily. It also notified the U.S. about the postponement of the Bilateral Consultative Commission (BCC) scheduled for November the same year. In January 2023, the U.S. Department of State submitted a report to Congress stating that Russia cannot be certified as being in compliance with the New START Treaty. In February, President Putin announced in his Address to the Federal Assembly the suspension of the implementation of the New START Treaty. In light of these developments, the "G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament", for example, also expressed deep regret over Russia's decision to undermine the New START Treaty, and called on Russia to enable a return to full implementation of the Treaty.

In view of the recent situations surrounding nuclear weapons, it is important to establish a new arms control mechanism that encompasses a wider range of countries beyond the U.S. and Russia, while also including a broader range of weapon systems. From this perspective, Japan has been explaining this issue to the relevant countries at various levels.

For example, at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) convened in July, Foreign Minister Hayashi stated that Japan expected China to play an active role in enhancing transparency of nuclear forces in the region as a nuclear-weapon State and as an important player in the international community, and expressed strong hope for dialogues leading to the development of broader framework of arms control, where a wide variety of countries are involved to deal with a wider range of weapon systems.

Furthermore, the aforementioned Resolution on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons also reaffirms the

²⁵ Implemented since 1983 by the UN to nurture nuclear disarmament experts. Program participants are invited to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to promote understanding of the reality of atomic bombings through such means as museum tours and talks by atomic-bomb survivors about their experiences in the atomic bombings.

²⁶ Opened as a permanent exhibition about the atomic bomb in New York, U.S.; Geneva, Switzerland; and Vienna, Austria, in cooperation with Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City.

special responsibility of nuclear-weapon States to initiate arms control dialogues on effective measures to prevent nuclear arms racing.

(2) Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security

A Japan's Efforts Toward Non-proliferation

To ensure Japan's security and to maintain peace and security of the international community, Japan has been making efforts concerning non-proliferation policy. The goal of such a policy is to prevent the proliferation of weapons that could threaten Japan and the international community (weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons and biological/chemical weapons, as well as missiles with the ability to deliver those weapons and conventional weapons) and of related materials and technologies used to develop such weapons.

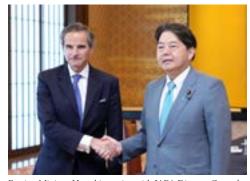
Amid the upheaval of the international order, there are growing concerns over non-proliferation in countries such as North Korea, Iran, and Syria. Non-proliferation risks are also growing on the back of many factors. For one, economic growth has enabled expanded capacity to produce and supply weapons as well as materials that could be diverted to the development of such weapons. In addition, distribution channels have become more complex alongside advancing globalization, and procurement methods for substances of concern and other materials have become increasingly sophisticated. The emergence of new technologies has also heightened the risk of the diversion of private sector technologies to military uses.

Under these circumstances, Japan has been implementing its non-proliferation policies through international non-proliferation regimes and rules,

■ Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA is an organization affiliated with the UN, which was established in 1957 with the aim of promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and at the same time, ensuring that nuclear energy is not used for any military purpose. Article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which entered into force in 1970, sets out the obligation of non-nuclear-weapon States to accept IAEA safeguards with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear technology from peaceful uses to military uses.

The activities of the IAEA, which is known as the nuclear watchdog, range widely from implementing safeguards to



Foreign Minister Hayashi meeting with IAEA Director General Grossi on his visit to Japan as a guest of MOFA (July 4, Tokyo)

ensure nuclear non-proliferation and measures to counter nuclear terrorism, to technical support related to nuclear power generation, and research and support for nuclear technologies in non-electric applications such as health, medicine, food and agriculture, water resource management, the environment, and industrial uses. It also plays a key role in nuclear non-proliferation in countries such as North Korea and Iran.

Since joining the IAEA as an original member state, Japan has contributed to discussions in the General Conference and Board of Governors meetings as a designated member state. It has also deepened cooperation with the IAEA traditionally in the nuclear non-proliferation field and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and actively supported IAEA activities in the human resources and financial aspects. Recently, in addition to cooperation on the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea by TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, and on nuclear safety in Ukraine, Japan is also advancing cooperation on various initiatives that the IAEA is promoting against the backdrop of growing global interest and demand for the use of nuclear energy in areas such as medicine, food, and the environment. Some examples are the "Rays of Hope" (an initiative related to radioactive cancer treatment and diagnosis) advocated by the IAEA and "Atoms4Food" (an initiative related to food issues), aimed at the attainment of SDGs in developing countries. Japan contributes funding to such initiatives.

Through opportunities such as visits by Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi to Japan as a guest of MOFA on three occasions, Japan is working to strengthen cooperation with the IAEA in these areas.

taking non-proliferation measures domestically, and promoting close coordination with and capacity building support for other nations.

Measures for preventing proliferation include IAEA safeguards, export control, and counter-proliferation initiatives.

Safeguards refer to verification activities conducted in accordance with safeguards agreements between states and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and aim to ensure that nuclear energy will not be diverted from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Safeguards are a primary means of achieving nuclear non-proliferation, which is one of three pillars of the NPT, and strengthening safeguards is vital toward promoting nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear power. As a designated member of the IAEA Board of Governors,²⁷ Japan is advancing various efforts including supporting the IAEA's activities, supporting enhanced understanding and implementation capabilities toward safeguards, and promoting the universalization of the Additional Protocol (AP).²⁸ Japan also contributes to capacity development in the area of safeguards in each country, such as through its contributions to the meetings of the Asia Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) and training projects conducted in Japan for Asian countries.

Export control is a measure in the so-called supply-side regulation toward countries of proliferation concern, terrorist organizations, and other entities attempting to acquire or distribute weapons or related materials or technologies. There are four export control frameworks (international export control regimes) in the international community. Japan has participated in all of them since their inception, engaging in international coordination

and practicing strict export control. Each of the four regimes, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for nuclear weapons, the Australia Group (AG) for chemical and biological weapons, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for missiles,²⁹ and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) for conventional weapons, establishes a list of dual-use items and technologies which contribute to the development of weapons that should be controlled. To ensure the non-proliferation of materials and technologies of concern, participating countries to the regimes implement export control measures on the listed items and technologies in accordance with their domestic laws. The international export control regimes also exchange information concerning trends in countries of proliferation concern and are engaged in outreach activities to non-participating countries to the regimes in order to strengthen their export control. The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna serves as the Point of Contact of the NSG, and Japan actively engages in such international rule-making and application of rules.

Furthermore, Japan is promoting counter-proliferation initiatives with a view to complementing such safeguards and the activities of the international export control regimes, and comprehensively addressing the proliferation and threat of weapons of mass destruction. Specifically, Japan participates actively in the activities of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI),³⁰ and works to enhance coordination among countries and relevant institutions, such as by hosting the PSI interdiction exercise on four occasions. In June 2023, Japan participated in the exercise hosted by the ROK. In addition, with regard to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540,³¹ which was adopted

^{27 13} countries are designated by the IAEA Board of Governors. The designated member states include Japan and other countries with advanced nuclear energy capabilities.

²⁸ In addition to a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) that is applied on all nuclear materials pertaining to the peaceful nuclear activities in that country, and that non-nuclear-weapon NPT States Parties are required to conclude with the IAEA pursuant to Article III Paragraph 1 of the NPT, an Additional Protocol is concluded between the IAEA and the respective State Parties. The conclusion of the Additional Protocol expands the scope of nuclear activity information that should be declared to the IAEA, and gives the IAEA strengthened measures to verify the absence of undeclared nuclear materials and activities. As of December 2023, 142 countries have concluded the Additional Protocol.

²⁹ Apart from export control regimes, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC), which includes the principle of exercising restraint in their development and deployment, addresses the issue of ballistic missiles. As of December 2023, 144 countries subscribe to the HCOC.

An initiative launched in 2003 for the purpose of implementing and considering possible measures consistent with relevant international laws and national legal authorities in order to interdict the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, along with related materials. 106 countries participate in and support the PSI as of December 2023. In 2013, the six countries of Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the ROK, Singapore, and the U.S. agreed to conduct a yearly rotation exercise in the Asia Pacific region. Through the cooperation of agencies including MOFA, the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Finance, the Japan Coast Guard and the Ministry of Defense, Japan has hosted PSI maritime interdiction exercises in 2004, 2007, and 2018, PSI air interdiction exercises in 2012, and an Operational Experts Group (OEG) meeting in 2010. Japan has also actively participated in training and related meetings hosted by other countries.

³¹ Adopted in April 2004, UN Security Council resolution 1540 obliges all countries to: (1) refrain from providing support to terrorists and other non-state actors attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction; (2) adopt and enforce laws prohibiting the development of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and other non-state actors; and (3) implement domestic controls (protective measures, border control, export controls, etc.) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The resolution also establishes, under the UN Security Council, the 1540 Committee, which comprises Security Council members and has a mandate to review and report to the Security Council the level of resolution 1540 implementation by member states.

in 2004 with the aim of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (missiles) to non-state actors, Japan contributes to maintaining and strengthening international non-proliferation regimes through means such as making financial contributions to support the implementation of the resolution by Asian nations. In 2023, Japan, as the G7 Presidency, hosted the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction Working Group (GPWG)³² in Tokyo and Nagasaki.

Japan also holds the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP)³³ and the Asian Export Control Seminar³⁴ every year in order to promote a better understanding of the non-proliferation regimes and strengthen regional efforts, mainly in Asian countries.

B Regional Non-proliferation Issues

In 2023, North Korea launched ballistic missiles 18 times, making at least 25 launches. This series of actions by North Korea is a flagrant violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and constitutes a grave and imminent threat to Japan's national security. At the same time, it also poses a clear and serious challenge to the international community, and is absolutely unacceptable. The IAEA Director General's report in August pointed out that North Korea's nuclear activities continue to be a cause for serious concern, and that the continuation of North Korea's nuclear programme is a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Moreover, at the IAEA General Conference convened in September, a resolution calling strongly on North Korea to take concrete steps toward achieving

complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear plans, as well as the prompt suspension of all related activities, was adopted by consensus. This demonstrated the united position of the IAEA member states toward the denuclearization of North Korea. Japan, too, took opportunities such as the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference in August, the IAEA General Conference in September, and the IAEA Board of Governors' Meeting in November, to proactively convey to the international community the importance of addressing North Korea's nuclear issue.

It is crucial that the international community makes concerted efforts to fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions for dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, by North Korea. To that end, Japan will continue to coordinate closely with related countries, including the U.S. and the ROK, as well as international organizations such as the UN and the IAEA. At the same time, from the viewpoint of the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, Japan will work on capacity building for export control, particularly in Asia. Japan will also continue to contribute actively to discussions on North Korea's nuclear and missile activities in international export control regimes such as the NSG and the MTCR.

Since the withdrawal of the previous U.S. administration under President Trump from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)³⁵ in 2018 and the reimposition of independent sanctions on Iran, Iran has continued actions to reduce its commitments

- Constraints on enriched uranium-related activities
- · Limit on the number of centrifuges in operation to 5,060 units
- \bullet Upper limit on enriched uranium at 3.67%, and limit on the amount of stored enriched uranium at 300 kg, etc.
- Constraints on the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor, and reprocessing
 - · Redesign / remodeling of the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor so that it is not able to produce weapon-grade plutonium and to transfer spent fuel out of the country
- No reprocessing, including for research purposes, no construction of reprocessing facilities, etc.

³² The establishment of the GPWG was agreed upon at the G8 Kananaskis Summit (Canada) in 2002. In the initial stages, nuclear non-proliferation projects were implemented, such as the dismantlement of decommissioned nuclear submarines and destruction of chemical weapons in target countries such as Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union, where this was a pressing problem in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Today, the Working Group is convened about twice a year under the G7 host country, and it works to promote cooperation to reduce specific proliferation threats in places such as Ukraine and the Global South, in areas such as nuclear and radiological security, and biological and chemical security. Furthermore, it also works to match project contributors with beneficiary organizations.

³³ A multilateral Director-General-level meeting launched in 2003 and hosted by Japan to discuss various issues related to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime in Asia among the 10 ASEAN member states, China, India, the ROK, as well as the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France, and the EU, which have common interests in Asian regional security. Most recently, the 18th meeting was held in December 2023, and discussions were held on topics such as proliferation challenges in Asia and the strengthening of export control.

³⁴ A seminar hosted by Japan to exchange views and information toward strengthening export controls in Asia, with the participation of export control officials from Asian countries and regions. It has been organized annually in Tokyo since 1993.

³⁵ Sets forth detailed procedures for imposing constraints on Iran's nuclear activities while ensuring that they serve peaceful purposes, and for lifting the imposed sanctions.

<Main measures undertaken by Iran>

under the JCPOA. In February 2021, Iran suspended the implementation of transparency measures under the JCPOA including the Additional Protocol (AP), and commenced production of 60% enriched uranium in April the same year.

Japan has consistently supported the JCPOA, which contributes to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. From this perspective, it has continued to support efforts by relevant countries toward the return of both the U.S. and Iran to the JCPOA. Japan, being deeply concerned about Iran's continued reduction of its commitments under the JCPOA, has repeatedly urged Iran to refrain from further measures that may undermine the JCPOA and to return fully to its commitments under the JCPOA.

In March 2023, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi revisited Iran to discuss these issues related to the implementation of the JCPOA and the series of safeguards issues (in which nuclear materials that had not been declared to the IAEA were found in Iran). The two sides issued a joint statement toward future cooperation on the safeguards issues and other matters. At the Board of Governor's meeting in September, a joint statement was issued by like-minded countries urging Iran to respond to the IAEA Director General's requests immediately. Later, the IAEA Director General's report published in November reported that cooperation based on the joint statement had appeared to be "frozen." Japan will continue to call strongly on Iran to cooperate completely and unconditionally with the IAEA. Japan will also continue to contribute to discussions related to Iran's nuclear and missile activities in the international export control regimes such as the NSG and the MTCR.

As for Syria, the IAEA Board of Governors in 2011 found that activities such as Syria's undeclared construction of a nuclear reactor would constitute non-compliance with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA. To address this outstanding issue, Japan has called upon Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA. It is important for Syria to sign, ratify and implement the AP.

C Nuclear Security

International cooperation is advancing in nuclear security to prevent acts of terrorism such as those involving

the use of nuclear and other radioactive materials. These include the entering into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) in 2007 and of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2015, respectively. In addition, the Nuclear Security Summit was held four times between 2010 and 2016. Japan has actively participated in and contributed to these efforts. For example, at the International Conference on Nuclear Security held by the IAEA in 2020, State Minister for Foreign Affairs WAKAMIYA Kenji participated in the ministerial conference as a representative of the Government of Japan and delivered a speech to share the view of Japan with other participants.

In Vienna in March 2022, the first Conference of the Parties since the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material was held, and the validity and implementation status of the amended Convention were discussed. Japan expressed its intention to continue to support the IAEA in the areas of human resources development and technological development going forward, as well as to contribute to strengthening international nuclear security.

On March 2 and 3, 2022, upon Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the IAEA Board of Governors convened a meeting in Vienna to discuss the safety, security and safeguards implications of the situation in Ukraine. At the meeting, participating countries condemned and expressed their concerns regarding Russia's attacks on the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant and other nuclear facilities in Ukraine from the perspective of nuclear safety, security and safeguards. The resolution adopted by a majority at the meeting deplores Russia's actions in Ukraine, which are posing serious and direct threats to the safety and security of nuclear facilities and civilian personnel. It also calls upon Russia to immediately cease all actions in order for Ukraine to preserve or promptly regain full control over nuclear facilities. Resolutions were also adopted by a majority at the Board of Governors' meeting in September and November of the same year. These resolutions express grave concern that Russia has not heeded the call of the Board to immediately cease all actions against and at nuclear facilities in Ukraine, and call on Russia to enable the Ukrainian authorities

to regain full control over the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to ensure its safe and secure operation, as well as to enable the IAEA to fully and safely conduct its safeguards verification activities. Furthermore, they also incorporate support for the efforts by the IAEA Director General and others to address the implications for the nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine, through means such as the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ) and the continuous presence of the IAEA staff at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The resolution was also adopted by a majority at the IAEA General Conference in September 2023, reaffirming concern over the situation facing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and support for the relevant efforts by the IAEA. Japan also strongly condemns Russia's aggression, including its seizure of nuclear facilities, and will continue to support the IAEA's efforts for ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities in Ukraine.

(3) Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

A Multilateral Efforts

Along with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is one of the three pillars of the NPT. According to the treaty, it is the "inalienable right" for any country that meets its obligations to non-proliferation to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Reflecting the increase in international energy demand, many countries use or are planning to use nuclear power.³⁶

On the other hand, these nuclear materials, equipment, and technologies used for nuclear power generation can be diverted to uses for military purposes, and a nuclear accident in one country may have significant impacts on neighboring countries. For these reasons, with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is vital to ensure the "3S";³⁷ that is, (1) Safeguards, (2) Nuclear Safety (e.g., measures to ensure safety to prevent nuclear accidents), and (3) Nuclear Security. As the country that experienced the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, it is Japan's

responsibility to share its experiences and lessons learned from the accident with other countries and to contribute to strengthening global nuclear safety. In 2013, the IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre (CBC) was designated in Fukushima Prefecture. At this Center, the IAEA and Japan cooperate to conduct training for Japanese and foreign officials to strengthen their capacity in the field of emergency preparedness and response.

Nuclear energy is applied not only to the field of power generation, but also to the field of non-power generation, including health, food and agriculture, the environment, and industrial uses. Promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in such non-power applications and contributing to development issues are becoming increasingly important as developing countries make up the majority of NPT States Parties. Therefore, the IAEA also contributes to technical cooperation for developing countries and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this context, Japan has been actively supporting the IAEA's activities in the technical and financial aspects, for example, through its technical cooperation based on the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development, and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) and with its contribution to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). Examples of support projects facilitated by Japan's contributions to the PUI include projects to address the problem of marine pollution caused by plastic waste, radiation treatment for cancer, and projects to address the food issue.

B Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

Bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements are concluded to establish a legal framework required for securing a legal assurance from the recipient country on nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear-related material and equipment that are transferred between the two countries, so as to realize cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between the two countries. Under such bilateral agreements, cooperation in areas such as the strengthening of nuclear safety

³⁶ According to the IAEA, 412 nuclear reactors are in operation worldwide and 59 reactors are under construction (IAEA website; as of January 2024).

^{37 &}quot;3S" is used to refer to the IAEA's efforts toward nuclear safety, nuclear security, and nuclear safeguards, which are typical measures for non-proliferation.

can be promoted. Japan makes its decision on whether or not to conclude a nuclear cooperation agreement framework with another country taking into account a wide range of factors such as non-proliferation efforts and nuclear energy policy of that country, its trust in and expectations for Japan, and the bilateral relationship between the two countries among others. As of December 2023, Japan has concluded bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements with 14 countries and one organization, which in order of entry into force of the agreement are: Canada, France, Australia, China, the U.S., the UK, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), Kazakhstan, the ROK, Viet Nam, Jordan, Russia, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, and India.

Decommissioning of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and Handling of ALPS Treated Water

The work of decommissioning, contaminated water management, decontamination and environmental remediation at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station are challenging. However, Japan is making steady progress in these areas by leveraging the collective technologies and knowledge of the world, and in close cooperation with the IAEA, the expert organization in the field of nuclear energy. In April 2021, the Government of Japan announced its basic policy on the handling of ALPS treated water, and in July of the same year, signed a Terms of Reference (TOR) on Reviews of Safety Aspects of Handling ALPS treated Water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station with the IAEA. Based on this TOR, the IAEA Task Force consisting of the IAEA officials and international experts selected by the IAEA has conducted third-party reviews on the Government of Japan and TEPCO in safety and regulatory aspects. The review on regulatory-related aspects was conducted in January 2023, and a comprehensive review on the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea was conducted from May to June.

On July 4, 2023, IAEA Director General Grossi visited Japan and handed to Prime Minister Kishida the Comprehensive Report compiled by the IAEA, summarizing these reviews conducted based on the TOR. The report concluded that (1) the approach to

the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, and the associated activities, are consistent with relevant international safety standards, (2) that the discharge of the ALPS treated water will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment, and (3) indicated the IAEA's plans to continue implementing additional reviews and monitoring during and after the discharge.

After the Inter-Ministerial Council for Contaminated Water, Treated Water and Decommissioning Issues and the Inter-Ministerial Council for Steady Implementation of the Basic Policy on Handling ALPS Treated Water were held on August 22, the discharge of ALPS treated water commenced on August 24. Based on the monitoring results to date, it has been confirmed that ALPS treated water is being discharged safely and as planned.

The IAEA experts and third-party analysis laboratories (Canada, China, and the ROK) conducted marine monitoring from October 16 to 23 (specifically, this involved the collection of sea water and sediment in the vicinity of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, fishery products in Fukushima Prefecture and preparation of the collected samples). From October 24 to 27, the IAEA Task Force visited Japan and conducted its first review after the start of the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea. The report on this review was published by the IAEA in January 2024.

In order to make progress in the decommissioning works and in recovery with the support and correct understanding of the international community, the Government of Japan periodically releases comprehensive reports through the IAEA that cover matters such as progress in decommissioning and contaminated water management at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, results of the monitoring of air dose rate and seawater radioactivity concentration, and food safety. In addition, Japan submits reports on the current situation to the relevant organizations, including Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo and to the IAEA. Furthermore, Japan has organized more than 100 briefing sessions to the Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo since the accident and provided and disseminated information through Japanese diplomatic missions overseas or through social media and other means.



Collecting samples of surface seawater for H-3 analysis off the coast of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (October, Fukushima Prefecture; Photo: Nuclear Regulation Authority)

Regarding the safety of discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, the Government of Japan continues to provide information sincerely to the international community in a highly transparent manner, based on scientific evidence, and to respond appropriately to claims that may encourage reputational damage. (See the Special Feature on page 246).

(4) Biological and Chemical Weapons

A Biological Weapons

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)³⁸ is the only multilateral legal framework comprehensively prohibiting the development, production and possession of biological weapons. However, how to reinforce the Convention is a challenge as there are neither provisions on measures to verify compliance with the BWC nor an implementing organization for the Convention.

Since 2006, decisions have been made to establish the Implementation Support Unit (fulfilling the functions of a Secretariat) and to hold intersessional meetings twice a year in between the Review Conferences held every five years. During this time, progress has been made with respect to initiatives aimed at strengthening the BWC regime.

At the 9th Review Conference of the BWC held in 2022, it was decided that a working group open to all States Parties would be established, with a view to strengthening all aspects of the implementation of the BWC. The working group started meeting from 2023,

and States Parties are discussing measures on international cooperation, the scientific and technological developments, and compliance and verification relevant to the BWC.

B Chemical Weapons

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)³⁹ comprehensively prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons, and stipulates that all existing chemical weapons must be destroyed. Compliance is ensured through a verification system consisting of declarations and inspections, making this Convention a groundbreaking international agreement on the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The implementing body of the CWC is the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is based in The Hague, the Netherlands. Along with the UN, the OPCW has played a key role in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. Its extensive efforts toward the realization of a world without chemical weapons were highly acclaimed, and the Organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. In May 2023, the Center for Chemistry and Technology (CCT), which Japan has also contributed funding to, was established. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs YOSHIKAWA Yuumi attended the opening ceremony of this Center.

Japan, which has a highly developed chemicals industry and numerous chemicals factories, also accepts numerous OPCW inspections. Japan also actively cooperates with the OPCW in many other concrete ways, including measures to increase the number of member states and strengthening national implementation measures by States Parties with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the Convention. Moreover, under the CWC, Japan aims to complete, as soon as possible, the destruction of chemical weapons of the former Japanese Army abandoned in Chinese territory by working in cooperation with China.

³⁸ Entered into force in March 1975. As of December 2023, 185 countries or regions are parties to the BWC.

³⁹ Entered into force in April 1997. As of December 2023, 193 countries or regions are parties to the CWC.

SPECIAL FEATURE

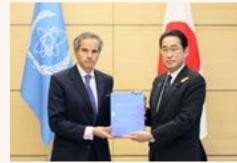
The Safety of the Discharge of ALPS Treated Water

On August 24, Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station started discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea. As for the safety of the discharge of ALPS treated water, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Comprehensive Report has shown that the discharge is consistent with relevant international safety standards. The Government of Japan is taking the opportunity of international conferences and bilateral meetings to explain Japan's efforts based on scientific evidence in a highly transparent and sincere manner, as well as utilizing social media and other means to actively disseminate information to the world.

In April 2021, the Government of Japan announced its basic policy on the handling of ALPS treated water, and in July of the same year, signed a Terms of Reference (TOR) on Reviews of Safety Aspects of Handling ALPS Treated Water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station with the IAEA. Based on this TOR, the IAEA Task Force consisting of the IAEA officials and international experts selected by the IAEA has conducted third-party reviews on the Government of Japan and TEPCO in safety and regulatory aspects.

On July 4, 2023, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi presented to Prime Minister Kishida the IAEA Comprehensive Report, summarizing these reviews conducted based on the TOR. The report concluded that the approach to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, and the associated activities, are consistent with relevant international safety standards, and that the discharge of ALPS treated water will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment. The IAEA also indicated its plans to continue implementing additional reviews and monitoring during and after the discharge.

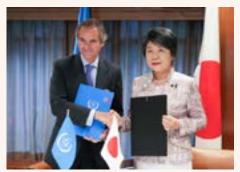
Even after the discharge of ALPS treated water commenced on August 24, Japan has continued to work closely with the IAEA to conduct



IAEA Director General Grossi paying a courtesy call to Prime Minister Kishida (July 4, Tokyo. Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

multi-layered monitoring in the following three areas: (1) monitoring of treated water in tanks; (2) real time monitoring; and, (3) sea area monitoring. Based on the monitoring results to date, it has been confirmed that ALPS treated water is being discharged safely as planned. Furthermore, there is growing understanding toward the discharge of ALPS treated water, with countries in a broad range of regions expressing their support and appreciation for the IAEA's efforts.

On September 18, Foreign Minister Kamikawa and IAEA Director General Grossi signed the Memorandum of



Meeting between Foreign Minister Kamikawa and IAEA Director General Grossi, and signing ceremony (September 18, New York, U.S.)

Cooperation between Japan and the IAEA concerning ALPS treated water. At the meeting following the signing ceremony, Foreign Minister Kamikawa stated that this memorandum reaffirms Japan's cooperation with the IAEA such as its continued involvement in review and monitoring and will further contribute to enhancing the international community's confidence in the safety of the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea.

Going forward, the Government of Japan will continue to explain Japan's position sincerely and transparently to the international community as it undergoes reviews by the IAEA, as well as to disseminate information based on scientific evidence in a highly transparent manner, such as by promptly publishing the results of monitoring activities.

(5) Conventional Weapons

Conventional weapons generally refer to arms other than weapons of mass destruction and include a wide variety of weapons ranging from landmines, tanks, and artillery to small arms and light weapons such as handguns. The problem of conventional weapons, which are used widely in actual wars and cause injury and death to civilians, is serious in light of both national security and humanitarian concerns. The disarmament agenda presented in 2018 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres categorizes disarmament of conventional weapons as one of the three pillars, "Disarmament that Saves Lives." Japan continues to make active efforts through international cooperation and support toward matters concerning conventional weapons, and participates in discussions at the relevant conferences.

A Small Arms and Light Weapons

Described as "the real weapons of mass destruction" due to the many human lives they take, small arms and light weapons continue to proliferate due to the ease with which they can be obtained and used. They contribute to conflict prolongation and escalation, hindering the restoration of public security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Since 2001, Japan has been working with other countries to submit a resolution on the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons to the UN General Assembly, and the resolution has been adopted every year. In 2023, Japan served in the role of drafting this resolution. In areas around the world, Japan has also provided support for projects to address the issue of small arms and light weapons, including training and the collection and destruction of weapons. In 2019, Japan contributed 2 million U.S. dollars to a mechanism for preventing small arms established under UN Secretary-General Guterres' disarmament agenda, and in 2022, through this mechanism, projects on small arms and light weapons were launched in Cameroon, Jamaica, and South Sudan.

B The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)40

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which seeks to establish common standards to regulate international trade and prevent the illicit transfer of arms, entered into force in December 2014. As one of the original co-authors of the UN General Assembly resolution that initiated a consideration of the Treaty, Japan has taken the lead in discussions and negotiations in the UN and contributed significantly to the establishment of the Treaty. Moreover, after the Treaty entered into force, Japan has continued to contribute actively in ways such as hosting the Fourth Conference of States Parties to the ATT in Tokyo as the first chair country elected from the Asia-Pacific region in August 2018. At the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the ATT, Japan contributed actively to discussions related to the universalization of the treaty, transparency and reporting, and promotion of implementation.

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, CCW)⁴¹

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) prohibits or restricts the use of conventional weapons that are deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. It comprises a framework convention that sets forth procedural and other matters, as well as five annexed protocols that regulate individual conventional arms. The framework convention entered into force in 1983. Japan has ratified the framework convention and annexed Protocols I to IV, including the amended Protocol II. Prompted by concerns in the international community about the rapidly advancing military applications of science and technology, meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) have been held under the CCW framework since 2017, and 11 guiding principles on LAWS were formulated in 2019. Japan has continued to contribute actively and constructively to such discussions on international rule-making. In March 2023, Japan submitted the "Draft articles on autonomous weapon systems - prohibitions and other regulatory measures

⁴⁰ As of December 2023, there are 113 states and regions that are parties to the ATT. Japan signed the Treaty on the day that it was released for signing and became a State Party in May 2014.

⁴¹ As of December 2023, 126 countries and regions are parties to the CCW.

on the basis of international humanitarian law" to the GGE, jointly with the U.S., the UK, Australia, Canada, and the ROK. As a result of active discussions at the GGE in March and May, the report was adopted by consensus which includes the view that weapon systems must not be used if they are incapable of being used in compliance with IHL, and that other weapon systems should be subject to necessary restrictions to ensure compliance with IHL.

Against the backdrop of increasingly active discussions on the impact of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) on the military domain, the first Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit was held in the Netherlands in February. Furthermore, the first meeting on the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, led by the U.S., was held in November.

Anti-Personnel Mines

Since the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention)⁴² in 1998, Japan has continued to promote comprehensive measures under the Convention, including the effective prohibition of anti-personnel mines and strengthening of support for mine-affected countries. Along with calling on countries in the Asia-Pacific region to ratify or accede to the Convention, Japan has also been steadily engaged in international cooperation through landmine clearance, victim assistance and other activities in the international community, from the viewpoint of the "Humanitarian- Development-Peace Nexus."

At the 21st Meeting of the States Parties of the Ottawa Convention held in Geneva in November, approval was granted for Cambodia to preside over the Fifth Review Conference in 2024, and for Japan to preside over the 22nd Meeting of the States Parties in 2025.

■ Cluster Munitions⁴³

The international community takes seriously the humanitarian consequences brought about by cluster munitions. Japan is therefore taking steps to address this issue via victim assistance and unexploded ordnance clearance. Japan is also continuing its efforts to increase the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). At the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the CCM held in September, Japan participated in discussions concerning these issues and shared its proactive efforts.

Japan's Efforts at the United Nations

(1) Japan-UN Relationship

The UN is an international organization that nearly all the countries in the world are members of (193 countries as of December 2023). It addresses various challenges in diverse areas such as conflict resolution and peacebuilding, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, poverty and development, human rights, refugee issues, environment and climate change issues, disaster risk reduction, and public health.

Since joining the UN in 1956, Japan has leveraged both universality and expertise to realize policy aims through multilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas, including the three pillars of the UN—peace and security, development, and human rights. Japan is serving for the 12th time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council since January 2023, more frequent than any other UN Member State, and playing a key role in the maintenance of international peace and security. In order to support such activities, the Government of Japan financially contributes to the UN alongside actively engaging in the organizational aspects (management) of the UN. Japan also supports Japanese staff working in the UN to obtain important posts (See Chapter 4, Section 1, 2(1)). To realize strong and effective multilateralism that can protect

⁴² The Convention, which entered into force in March 1999, bans the use and production of anti-personnel mines while mandating the destruction of stockpiled mines and the clearance of buried mines. As of December 2023, there are 164 states and regions that are parties to the Convention, including Japan.

⁴³ Generally speaking, it refers to bombs or shells in the form of large containers that open midair and release submunitions that spread over a wide area. They are said to be highly likely to not explode on impact, leading to the problem of civilians being accidentally killed or injured.

⁴⁴ See the White Paper on Development Cooperation for specific efforts on international cooperation regarding cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines.

⁴⁵ Entered into force in August 2010, it prohibits the use, possession, or production of cluster munitions, while mandating the clearance of cluster munitions in contaminated areas and the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions. There are 112 states and regions that are parties to the Convention, including Japan (as of December 2023)

and strengthen "human dignity," Japan continues to work proactively to strengthen the functions of the UN, including UN Security Council reform.

(2) Major Events in 2023

The High-Level Week of the 78th UN General Assembly convened in September. Prime Minister Kishida and Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended from Japan.

In the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Kishida shed a new light on "human dignity" at a time when the international community is facing multiple crises and increasingly being divided, and advocated "human-centered international cooperation" to overcome differences in national regimes or values. He stressed the need to consolidate the trend of nuclear disarmament mainstreaming, the importance of the rule of law, and of UN Security Council reform to strengthen the UN as a part of international cooperation to protect and strengthen "human dignity".

Prime Minister Kishida attended the following five multilateral meetings during the High-Level Week.

At the Commemorative High-Level Event on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) co-hosted by Japan, the Philippines, and Australia, Prime Minister Kishida delivered a keynote speech. He pointed out that, for the first time since the peak of the Cold War, the world is on the cusp of a reversal of the decreasing trend of the global number of nuclear arsenals, making it even more necessary to start early negotiations on an FMCT. In light of that, 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for an FMCT, this event urged all countries to reinvigorate discussions by refocusing political attention toward an FMCT, and to use it as a new opportunity to work together toward the early commencement of negotiations.

At the 2023 SDG Summit, Prime Minister Kishida reiterated that, with the international community facing various difficulties, now is the time to return to the starting point of the SDGs, "Leave No One Behind," and that "human security," which Japan has consistently advocated, is key to achieving the SDGs

based on "human dignity." He clearly expressed Japan's determination to strongly lead the international community's efforts to achieve the SDGs and thereby open the way for our future.

At the Security Council High Level Open Debate on "Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter through effective multilateralism: maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine," Prime Minister Kishida once again strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine and emphasized the importance of realizing peace based on the principles of the UN Charter. He also expressed his determination to aim for "multilateralism rooted in a spirit of solidarity," while protecting the dignity of people suffering in various parts of the world. Furthermore, he called for a world of cooperation rather than division and confrontation, along with concrete action to strengthen the functions of the UN, including UN Security Council reform.

At the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on universal health coverage (UHC), Prime Minister Kishida once again called on the international community to take actions toward achieving UHC.

Prime Minister also attended the G7 Health Follow-up Side Event. In his remarks, he affirmed the progress of the "MCM (Medical Countermeasures) Delivery Partnership for Equitable Access (MCDP),"46 one of outcomes of the G7 Hiroshima Summit in the area of health, and the "Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health (Triple I for GH)".47 He also announced the launch of a new ODA loan scheme to enable the flexible and effective mobilization of funds necessary for prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) in developing countries.

Prime Minister Kishida took the opportunity of the High-Level Week to hold two bilateral summit meetings, actively exchanging opinions on bilateral relations as well as on various issues in the international arena. During his stay in New York, he also attended the Global Goalkeepers Award 2023 ceremony and the Global Citizenship Awards annual gala. Furthermore, he delivered remarks to the Economic Club of New York, and communicated the achievements under the Kishida administration over

⁴⁶ Launched at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, this is an international cooperation framework that focuses on the delivery of medical countermeasures (MCMs) to ensure equitable access to MCMs.

⁴⁷ An initiative that aims to mobilize private financial resources to resolve issues in the global health sector, through impact investments which intend to generate a measurable socially and/or environmentally beneficial impact alongside a financial return.



Prime Minister Kishida delivering an address at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly (September 19, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

the past year and its determination for the future, mainly in the economic field, such as the reform of the asset management sector and asset ownership to promote Japan as a Leading Asset Management Center. He further spoke about the Kishida administration's future intentions, and called for investment in Japan.

Foreign Minister Kamikawa engaged in active diplomacy during the High-Level Week, attending a total of 12 multilateral meetings, including the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries on UN Security Council Reform, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting, as well as 16 bilateral meetings and five summit events. In her meetings with various countries, Foreign Minister Kamikawa sent out a strong message on the rule of law and the importance of the UN, which should play a central role in that, and on strengthening the functions of the UN including UN Security Council reform. She also affirmed the importance of strongly promoting Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) as a part of Japan's diplomacy. Furthermore, she affirmed cooperation on regional affairs, such as in Ukraine and North Korea, and communicated to the international community Japan's position in areas such as health, disarmament, and environmental issues.

During the High-Level Week, Foreign Minister Kamikawa also met with Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. At the meeting, she emphasized the importance of strengthening the UN's functions, including UN Security Council reform, and expressed Japan's support for strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly and President of the General Assembly.



Prime Minister Kishida meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres at the G7 Hiroshima Summit (May 21, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture; Photo: Cabiner Public Affairs Office)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited Japan to attend the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May, and met with Prime Minister Kishida during his visit. Prime Minister Kishida emphasized the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT with regard to nuclear disarmament and hoped that Japan's efforts would deepen understanding about the reality of atomic bombings, leading to the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons. Secretary-General Guterres stated that he valued Japan's contributions thus far, and hoped to work even more closely with Japan on nuclear disarmament. Both sides shared their views on the importance of the UN reform and strengthening of its functions toward the realization of a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

(3) UN Security Council and its Reform

A UN Security Council

The UN Security Council holds the primary responsibility within the UN for maintaining international peace and security. It is composed of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members that are elected by UN Member States (for two-year terms). The UN Security Council's agenda covers a wide range of areas from the peaceful settlement of disputes and addressing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, to peacebuilding and WPS. In recent years, new themes such as climate change and food security have also been covered. The UN Security Council also has a mandate to determine the details of activities in UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and UN Special Political Missions (SPM).



Foreign Minister Hayashi hosting the Ministerial Open Debate on the Rule of Law at the UN Security Council (January 12, New York, U.S.)

Japan was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in June 2022, and is serving its two-year term from January 2023 for the 12th time as a non-permanent member, more frequent than any other UN Member State (See the Special Feature on page 252). In January, when Japan held the Security Council presidency, Foreign Minister Hayashi visited New York and hosted the ministerial Open Debate on the rule of law. Japan also hosted a meeting on peacebuilding during its presidency at the ambassadorial level. The UN Security Council has not been functioning effectively in its response to Russia's (a permanent member of the Council) aggression against Ukraine and North Korea's nuclear and missile activities that repeatedly violate UN Security Council resolutions and threaten the peace and security of Japan, the region, and the international community. Throughout its two-year term on the Council, Japan will communicate closely with other countries and engage in dialogues with the aim of maintaining and strengthening international order based on the rule of law while cooperating to enable the UN Security Council to fulfill its expected role. Japan will also contribute actively to discussions on the response to regional issues in the Middle East, Africa, and other regions, as well as on global issues such as climate change. As it has contributed during previous terms, Japan will continue to work on improving the work methods of the UN Security Council, including enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the Council.

B Reform of the UN Security Council

More than 75 years have passed since the UN was established, and the structure of the international community has significantly changed while the UN's functions have become diverse. Despite this, the composition of the UN Security Council has largely remained unchanged to this day. In response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, a resolution that deplores the aggression by Russia and calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops was put to a vote in the UN Security Council. However, it was not adopted as Russia exercised its veto. Consequently, the UN Security Council was unable to take a coordinated response. This clearly shows that the UN Security Council cannot function effectively in response to situations such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine. There is a broadly shared view among the international community that an early reform of the UN Security Council is necessary to make the body more legitimate, effective, and representative.

To play an even more proactive role toward the realization of world peace and security through the UN, Japan has been making efforts to convince other countries to pursue an early UN Security Council reform, with the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats and Japan's admission as a permanent member.

Recent Activities Regarding UN Security Council Reform

Since 2009, in the UN General Assembly, Member States have been engaging in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on UN Security Council reform. In 2023, five meetings took place between January and May. During the 77th session, a dedicated website was launched to broadcast parts of the IGN meetings online, and to store the relevant materials and statements by countries. At the end of June, following on from 2022, the decision to roll over the work of the 77th session to the 78th session was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly. In October, President Francis of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly reappointed the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait and Australia to the UN as co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations. The spotlight will be placed on how future discussions will progress under the new system.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Serving as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council

 \mathbf{F} or two years from January 2023, Japan has taken on the responsible role of a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. This is the 12th time that Japan serves in this role, more times than any other UN Member State. Japan is working tirelessly in the UN Security Council every day for the peace and security of the international community.

January 2023, Main Activities during Japan's Presidency of the UN Security Council

Hosted the Ministerial Open Debate on the Rule of Law

Taking the opportunity of Japan's Presidency of the UN Security Council in January, Foreign Minister Hayashi hosted the Ministerial Open Debate on the Rule of Law in the UN Security Council on January 12. In the Open Debate, Foreign Minister Hayashi emphasized the following essential elements of the rule of law in light of the divisions among Member States as a result of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and other factors: firstly, observing the UN Charter, UN resolutions, and judgements by international tribunals, and other agreements in good faith; secondly, not allowing redrawing of borders by force or coercion; and, thirdly, cooperating with the Member States to stand up against violations of the UN Charter. He called on Member States for "uniting for the rule of law." 77 countries, including the foreign ministers of three countries, attended the Debate and many expressed their support to Japan's stance that the rule of law, not rule by force, is important.

•Hosted Open Debate on peacebuilding at Ambassadorial Level

On January 26, Japan hosted the UN Security Council Open Debate (Permanent Representative Level) on "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace." Ambassador Ishikane, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, chaired the Debate. He shed light on the increasingly complex issues that the international community should address in order to realize sustainable peace, as well as the importance of the role of "people" in peacebuilding and provoked discussions toward strengthening the functions of the UN, including the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

This meeting demonstrated the widespread interest in peacebuilding among the international community. 74 countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America that have experienced conflict, island countries that have suffered from the impact of climate change, as well as Ukraine and its neighboring countries made statements.

The role of Japan in subsidiary organs under the UN Security Council

Japan contributes actively to the activities of the UN Security Council, serving as Chair of the Al-Shabaab Sanctions Committee and the Libya Sanctions Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Iraq Sanctions Committee, the UN Security Council 1718 Sanctions Committee, and the Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. Japan also takes initiative in Security Council resolutions on Afghanistan as a co-penholder, leading discussions on the situation in Afghanistan in the Council.

Contributions to key issues

In response to the repeated launches of ballistic missiles by North Korea, Japan works closely with the U.S., the Republic of

Korea (ROK), and other relevant countries to lead discussions in the UN Security Council. In August, a meeting on the situation in North Korea was held for the first time in six years, provoking international debate toward improving the human rights situation in North Korea, including the immediate resolution of the abductions issue. With regard to the situation in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Hayashi attended the Security Council Ministerial Debate in February, and Prime Minister Kishida attended the Security Council High Level Open Debate in September, during which they once again strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine and emphasized the importance of the rule of law. With regard to the situation in Israel and Palestine, Japan worked in close coordination with the other members of the Security Council and contributed to the



Prime Minister Kishida attending the Security Council High Level Open Debate on "Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter through effective multilateralism: maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine" (September 20, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2712 calling for humanitarian pauses in the Gaza Strip, and UN Security Council resolution 2720 concerning the expansion of humanitarian assistance and monitoring in the Gaza Strip. Japan also contributed actively to discussions in meetings on the situation in other regions including Africa, Central and South America, as well as new themes such as food security, climate change, and artificial intelligence (AI).

In the face of various challenges confronting the international community, Japan will continue to contribute to the peace and security of the international community as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2024.

1 Refers to the member of the Security Council that leads discussions on a paticular agenda item and drafts documents such as resolutions and the chair's statements.

Japan also places great importance on its initiatives as a member of the G4 (Japan, India, Germany and Brazil), a group that cooperates on promoting UN Security Council reform. Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries in September in conjunction with the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly. At the meeting, the G4 Ministers shared their perceptions of the current situation regarding Security Council reform and discussed future directions of work, with recognition of the increasing importance of strengthening the functions of the UN, including Security Council reform, in order to restore confidence in the UN, which was damaged by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, among others. Foreign Minister Kamikawa called for striving for concrete actions toward the realization of Security Council reform, utilizing fora such as IGN, while looking ahead to the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the 80th Anniversary of the UN in 2025 as opportunities to build momentum for reform. On top of that, the G4 Ministers concurred to work closely with the President of the General Assembly for concrete discussion in the IGN and to cooperate with relevant countries including Africa and the U.S.



Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 Countries on UN Security Council Reform (September 21, New York, U.S.)

to achieve concrete progress as soon as possible toward the realization of Security Council reform. Japan will continue to work closely with many countries and persevere toward the realization of UN Security Council reform.

(4) Organizational Aspects of the UN (Management)

A Management

UN Secretary-General Guterres positions reforms in the management of the UN along with peace efforts and development as issues of priority, and works continuously to enhance global governance. In 2021, he issued a report entitled "Our Common Agenda" which proposed concrete measures to adapt the UN to a new era. Japan supports the objectives of the reform with the hope that the UN will fulfill its mission more effectively and efficiently.

B Budget

The UN budget is mainly composed of the regular budget for general activities (an annual budget for the period from January to December), and the peace-keeping budget related to peacekeeping operations (an annual budget for the period from July to the following June).

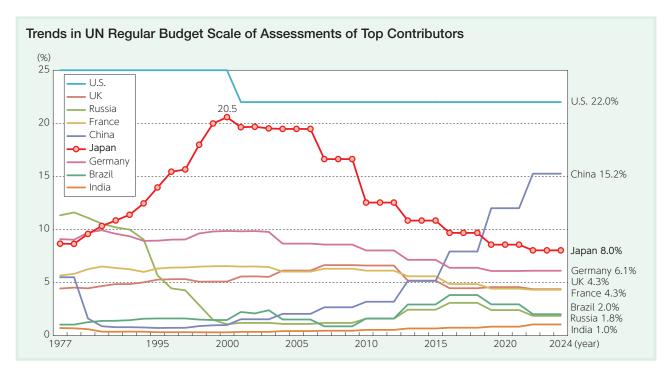
With regard to the regular budget, a budget for 2024 amounting to approximately 3.59 billion U.S. dollars was approved in December 2023 at the UN General Assembly. The budget for peacekeeping operations for the period of 2023-2024 amounting to approximately 6.05 billion U.S. dollars in total was approved in June 2023.

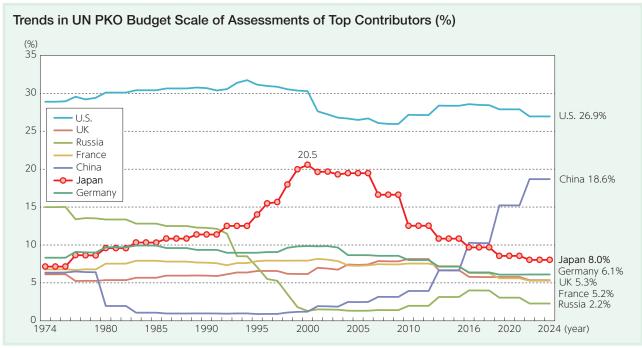
The budget to support UN activities is composed of assessed contributions paid by Member States and voluntary contributions provided in accordance with

Member States' policy needs. With regard to assessed contributions, Japan currently ranks third after the U.S. and China. Japan contributed approximately 234.99 million U.S. dollars to the UN regular budget for 2023, and approximately 486.30 million U.S. dollars to the peacekeeping budget for 2023/24. As a major financial contributor, Japan has been encouraging the UN to make more efficient and effective use of its financial resources. The scale of assessments, which provides the basis for calculating the amount of assessed

contributions, is revised every three years based on the capacities to pay of the Member States. Japan's scale of assessment, revised at the end of 2021, is 8.033% (2022-2024), behind the U.S. and China.

Key bodies that address administrative and budgetary matters of the UN are the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Committee on Contributions. Both are standing subsidiary committees of the General Assembly and are comprised of members serving in their personal





capacities. The ACABQ reviews the overall administrative and budgetary issues of the UN and makes recommendations to the General Assembly, while the Committee on Contributions submits a proposal on the scale of assessments of the regular budget for a decision to be made by all Member States at the General Assembly. Hence, both committees play an important role. Members from Japan have served continuously on both of these committees.

6 The Rule of Law in the International Community

The rule of law is, generally, the concept that recognizes the superiority of the law over all forms of power. It is an essential cornerstone of a fair and just society within a country. At the same time, it contributes to peace and stability in the international community and constitutes the basis of the international order that consists of friendly and equitable relations between states. In the international community, under the rule of law, we must not allow rule by force, and all countries must observe international law in good faith, and there must be no unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. Japan promotes strengthening of the rule of law as one of the pillars of its foreign policy, and promotes rule-making in various fields as well as ensuring their proper implementation.

(1) Japan's Diplomacy to Strengthen the Rule of Law

Japan makes use of various opportunities, including international conferences, to affirm with other States the importance of a free and open international order based on the rule of law. In addition, Japan participates actively in rule-making in various sectors, contributing to the formation and development of a new international legal order. In order to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of legal order, Japan also actively cooperates with judicial organizations to strengthen their functions via both human resource and financial contributions, and works proactively on international cooperation in relation to the rule of law by supporting the improvement of legal systems and organizing events on international law.



Foreign Minister Kamikawa meeting with President Donoghue of the ICJ (January 11, 2024, Hague, Netherlands)

With the very foundation of the international order being shaken as a result of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, it is becoming even more important to strengthen the rule of law. In his statement at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly held in September, Prime Minister Kishida emphasized that the principles of the UN Charter, such as sovereign equality, respect for territorial integrity, and the prohibition of the use of force, are fundamental principles of international law and provide the basis of the rule of law. He also advocated that international law exists for the benefit of weaker states, and declared Japan's resolve to protect the right of vulnerable nations and peoples to live in peace under the rule of law.

In January 2024, Foreign Minister Kamikawa held meetings with Judge Joan E. Donoghue, President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ); Judge Piotr Hofmański, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC); and Mr. Karim A. A. Khan KC, Prosecutor of the ICC in The Hague (Netherlands). She also met with Judge Tomas Heidar, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg (Germany). In addition to sharing a sense of crisis on the current situation in the international community with its deepening divisions and confrontations, Foreign Minister Kamikawa expressed Japan's unwavering support for the role that international courts play for the rule of law and human dignity, and stated that Japan will advance diplomacy comprehensively based on dialogues and cooperation, so as to strengthen the rule of law in the international community.

A Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

In order to encourage peaceful settlement of disputes via international judicial institutions while striving to comply faithfully with international law, Japan accepts the compulsory jurisdiction⁴⁸ of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN, and constructively contributes to establishing the rule of law in the international community via cooperation in providing human and financial resources. For example, Japan is the largest financial contributor to the ICC and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). In terms of human resources, a number of Japanese judges serve on international judicial bodies as of 2023, including ICJ Judge IWASAWA Yuji (incumbent since 2018), Judge HORINOUCHI Hidehisa to the ITLOS (incumbent since 2023), and Judge AKANE Tomoko to the ICC (incumbent since 2018 and elected as the President of ICC in March 2024). Through these contributions, Japan strives to enhance the effectiveness and universality of international courts and tribunals. With the aim of fostering human resources capable of playing an active role in international litigations in the future, Japan provides active support to Japanese nationals interning at international judicial organizations and other related organizations through the Support Program for Internships at International Courts and other International Organizations.

At the same time, in order to further strengthen its capacity in dealing with international litigations, Japan is engaged in efforts to enhance expertise on international judicial proceedings, and to create a strong organization that can perform well in international litigation by strengthening relationships with legal experts and law firms in and outside Japan, that are mainly active in proceedings at major international courts and tribunals. In the field of economy, the importance of dispute settlements based on World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), and investment agreements has been growing in recent years. Against this backdrop, in the handling of dispute settlements under the WTO agreements and others, Japan engages in litigation work, such as preparation of written submissions, handling of evidence,

and preparation and participation in oral proceedings, in close cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies as well as academic experts and practitioners specializing in international economic law both in Japan and abroad. It also advances initiatives such as analyzing case law and academic theories, and engages in dispute prevention. In these ways, Japan strives to strengthen its capacity for strategic and effective dispute settlement.

B International Rule-making

International rule-making to respond to issues the global community faces is one of the important efforts toward strengthening the rule of law. Along with actively promoting the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral treaties aimed at building a legal foundation for achieving goals it shares with other countries, Japan is demonstrating initiative starting at the planning phase in creating rules for developing international laws that reflect its ideals and positions in cross-sectoral efforts in the framework of the UN and other fora. Specifically, Japan has been actively involved in the rule-making processes within various international frameworks, including the codification of public international law at the International Law Commission (ILC) and the sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as the preparation of conventions and model laws in the field of private international law at fora such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). In the ILC, ASADA Masahiko, Professor of Doshisha University and Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, serves as a member (incumbent from 2023) and is contributing to the development of international law by participating in the debates on draft articles. Japan also sends government representatives to various meetings of the HCCH, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT, taking an active lead in the discussions. In particular, Japan has been showing its presence as a member state of UNCITRAL since the founding of the commission, such as by acceding to the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting

⁴⁸ A declaration that States Parties to the Statute of the ICJ recognize the jurisdiction of the ICJ as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other state accepting the same obligation, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2 of its Statute. Only 74 countries, including Japan, have made such declaration to date (as of February 28, 2024).

from Mediation negotiated at UNCITRAL in 2023, and proposing and realizing the enlargement of the membership of UNCITRAL as well as projects in the field of dispute settlement to date. In UNIDROIT, Dr. KANDA Hideki, Professor of Gakushuin University as well as Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo serves as chair of the Digital Assets and Private Law working group (incumbent from 2014), and contributes to leading-edge discussions on digital finance.

International Cooperation and Human Resource Development

Japan is also actively engaged in international cooperation on the rule of law, not only to promote the rule of law in the international community, but also to strengthen it within various countries. For example, to further develop the rule of law, Japan provides support for the development of legal systems, especially in Asian countries. It also participates constructively in the discussions and provides human and financial cooperation to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), the only inter-governmental organization in the Asia/ Africa region on issues related to international law. In addition, Japan participates actively as an observer in the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), which examine questions related to public international law under the Council of Europe (CoE). In August, with the aim of fostering professionals in the field of international law, Japan organized the first Tokyo International Law Seminar, a practical training program in the field of international law for officials and legal experts from the Indo-Pacific region, as well as Japanese lawyers and international law scholars. As part of the Tokyo International Law Seminar, the 24th Asia Cup, an international law moot court competition for students in Asia including Japan, was also held, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes and to nurture future international lawyers and enhance exchanges among them (See the Special Feature on page 258).

(2) Initiatives in the Maritime Sector

For Japan, as a maritime nation, maintaining and strengthening maritime order based on the rule of law is an issue of the utmost importance. Therefore, Japan has consistently advocated for the "Three Principles of

the Rule of Law at Sea" to be followed by every nation ((a) making and clarifying claims based on international law; (b) not using force or coercion in trying to drive their claims; and (c) seeking to settle disputes by peaceful means). Prime Minister Kishida reiterated these principles in his policy speech related to the New Plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," delivered in March.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) serves as a foundation for such rule of law at sea. The Convention has been ratified by 168 countries, including Japan (including some regions not officially recognized as nations by Japan; as of December 2023) and the EU. The Convention comprehensively provides for principles governing the sea, including the freedom of navigation and overflight of the high seas. It also stipulates rights and obligations under international law on the development and regulation of marine resources, among other things. The provisions of the Convention that concern areas such as territorial sea and exclusive economic zones (EEZ) are widely accepted among the international community, and the recognition that activities conducted on the seas ought to be carried out according to the provisions of the Convention is widely shared. As problems concerning the oceans and seas grow more complex and diverse, it is important to preserve and strengthen the maritime order based on the Convention, which serves as a comprehensive and universal legal framework.

To achieve the objectives of UNCLOS, several international organizations have been established based on UNCLOS. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), established in 1996, fulfills an important role in the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and the preservation and advancement of law and order at sea. The ITLOS deals with a wide range of cases, including the delimitation of maritime boundaries and the protection of the marine environment in recent years in particular, and the importance of the Tribunal has been growing. Japan attaches importance to the role played by the ITLOS and has successively dispatched Japanese judges to the Tribunal since its establishment. In the election of members of ITLOS held at the UN in June, Ambassador for UNCLOS HORINOUCHI Hidehisa was newly elected as a judge (nine-year term starting from October 2023).

SPECIAL FEATURE

The First Tokyo International Law Seminar

In August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) organized the first Tokyo International Law Seminar, an international law training program for officials and legal experts, at the United Nations University, Tokyo.

The Seminar aims to contribute to peace guided by the rule of law by expanding the common knowledge of international law and promoting exchanges among officials and legal experts from Asia and Africa, and also to foster international law capacity building in Japan by welcoming the participation of Japanese lawyers and young international law scholars.

The Seminar provided lectures on various areas of international law of particular practical importance, such as the use of force, the law of the sea, immunity, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, international economic law, and international environmental law, as well as on new areas such as cyber-related international law, and also offered practical lectures on dispute resolution practices in international justice and international arbitration. For the lecturers, MOFA invited internationally prominent world-leading international law experts from abroad, such as Dapo Akande, Professor of University of Oxford, Paul Reichler, international lawyer at 11 KBW, and Gary Born, partner at WilmerHale, and leading Japanese experts including IWASAWA Yuji, Judge of International Court of Justice (ICJ) also joined the Seminar as the lecturers.

In addition, "Asia Cup," an international law moot court competition for students in Asia that has been held annually in Japan since 1999, was held as a part of the Tokyo International Law Seminar. Student teams from 14 countries that had been selected on the basis of the preliminary examination of written pleadings competed in the oral rounds held in Japan and deepened mutual exchanges.

Consequently, the first Tokyo International Law Seminar provided an invaluable opportunity for international law experts and practitioners, as well as future international lawyers from Japan and abroad, to gather in Japan to learn together about the important aspects of international law, and to foster friendship and build a network. This "Japan originated" initiative, which was achieved with the cooperation of various legal professionals in Japan, including the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Japanese Society of International Law, and Japanese law firms, received a high reputation from many participants.

Amid the growing importance of maintaining and strengthening an international order based on the rule of law in recent years, in 2023, Japan put effort into leading international discussions on the pursuance of the rule of law through observing international law in good faith. These efforts include calling for unity under the rule of law at the UN Security Council and appealing to strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law as President of the G7. The Tokyo International Law Seminar is one of the initiatives under the new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" announced by Prime Minister Kishida in March, and MOFA intends to further expand this Seminar in the future.



Professor Akande giving a lecture (August, Tokyo)



Commemorative photograph of the Seminar participants (August, Tokyo)

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) plays an important role in the operation of the system for establishing the outer limits of the continental shelf. Since its establishment, Japan has continued to cooperate with the Commission in terms of both human and financial resources, through means such as continuously producing members (Japan's current member is Professor YAMAZAKI Toshitsugu from the University of Tokyo (term ends on June 15, 2028)). In the International Seabed Authority (ISA) established for the primary purpose of administering mineral resources in the Area (international deep seabed zone), during three parts of the Council's Session held in 2023, deliberations were held on regulations concerning the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. Japan participates actively in negotiations to ensure that its position is reflected in the regulations.

In response to growing interest from the international community on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the high seas and the Area, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) whose discussions on this Agreement commenced in the UN in 2004 and whose articles have been under negotiations since 2018, was adopted at the UN Headquarters in New York on June 19. Japan participated actively in the negotiations for this Agreement from the position of emphasizing the balance between conservation and sustainable use (See the Special Feature on page 260).

(3) Initiatives in the Political and Security Fields

In order to strengthen its legal basis for diplomatic activities, Japan is actively engaged in concluding international agreements in the political and security field. For instance, Reciprocal Access Agreements (RAA) establish procedures for the cooperative activities conducted by the defense force of one country while visiting another country, and define a status of the visiting force. The RAA between Japan and Australia entered into force in August and that between Japan and the UK in October respectively. Japan also commenced negotiations on a RAA with the Philippines

in November. On December 24, Japan and Djibouti signed an Exchange of Notes (entered into force on the same date) to apply, mutatis mutandis, the provisions of the Notes exchanged between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti in 2009, to the activities which are mutually determined by the two governments. This is aimed at securing the status of the Self-Defense Forces to undertake measures to protect and transport Japanese nationals overseas, etc. and to improve temporary preparedness in anticipation of that possibility. With regard to Agreements concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services ("Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement," or ACSA), which establishes a framework such as the settlement procedures for the reciprocal provision of supplies and services between the Self-Defense Forces and the military forces of other countries, Japan commenced negotiations with Germany in September and signed an agreement in January 2024. In addition to these, Japan has also further advanced efforts to conclude Agreements concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, which set out provisions on the handling of defense equipment and technologies to be transferred, as well as Agreements on the Security of Information, which serve as the basis for sharing classified information on security with the relevant countries. With regard to Agreements concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, Japan signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates in May (entered into force in January 2024), and with Singapore on June 3 (entered into force on the same date).

(4) Initiatives in the Fields of the Economy and Society

The conclusion and implementation of international agreements that bring legal discipline to cooperative relationships with other countries in the economic sphere remain important for promoting the liberalization of trade and investment, as well as people-to-people exchanges, and for strengthening the foundations for the overseas activities of Japanese citizens and companies. The agreements that Japan negotiated and signed or concluded in 2023 include tax conventions, investment treaties, and social security agreements with various countries and regions. Furthermore, Japan also

SPECIAL FEATURE

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Diversifying Challenges of the Oceans - From the Perspective of the Marine Environment

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted by the UN in 1982 and also known as the "Constitution for the Oceans," comprehensively stipulates rights and obligations related to maritime activities under international law. On the other hand, climate change and the advancement of technology have resulted in the diversification of challenges to the oceans that the international community has been confronted with in recent years. Among these are issues that had not been anticipated during the drafting of UNCLOS, and discussions are ongoing within the international community on how to address these new challenges under the UNCLOS framework. From the perspective of the marine environment, this Special Feature introduces "sea level rise" and "marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction" as new issues in maritime law that the international community is working to address.

Impact of rising sea levels on baselines

Climate change is attracting much attention as a pressing issue that the international community faces. When sea levels rise due to climate change, coastlines may regress, resulting in changes to the outer edges of territorial waters for countries that are surrounded by the ocean in particular. This has serious repercussions. For this reason, within the field of international law, discussions are taking place in fora including the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) on whether countries are permitted to continue recognizing existing territorial baselines and maritime zones without changing them, while placing emphasis on legal stability.

The problem of sea-level rise is also of great importance to Japan as the maritime nation, and Japan is working to strengthen cooperation with other countries including the Pacific Island countries. In February, Foreign Minister Hayashi conveyed to the Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) that Japan has decided to take the position that it is permissible to preserve the existing baselines and maritime zones established in accordance with UNCLOS, notwithstanding the regression of coastlines due to climate-change-related sea-level rise. Furthermore, Prime Minister Kishida also expressed this position to the world in his address at the General Debate during the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly in September, and took the lead in discussions within the international community.

Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

The international community also has strong interest in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and is advancing initiatives in this area. With regard to the conservation of the biological diversity of maritime zones over which coastal states can exercise their jurisdiction (territorial sea, exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and continental shelf), there is the Convention on Biological Diversity which entered into force in 1993. However, in response to growing international recognition of the need for similar rules to other maritime zones (the high seas and the Area (international deep seabed zone)), the "Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of



Adoption of the BBNJ Agreement in the UN (June, U.S. Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)

Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)" was adopted in June 2023. Discussions on this matter commenced at the UN in 2004, and Japan has been participating actively in negotiations to ensure that the resulting agreement strikes a balance between "conservation" and "sustainable use," and is an effective and universal agreement that many countries will participate in. Discussions and negotiations spanning close to 20 years eventually came to fruition, and Japan welcomes the progress in rule-making for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the high seas and the Area.

While the international community is confronted by new challenges with the oceans, Japan has been leading discussions within the international community and striving to maintain and strengthen maritime order based on UNCLOS.

engaged actively in negotiations on EPAs and other agreements, with the aim of expanding free and fair economic spheres and strengthening wide-ranging economic relationships.

With regard to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTTP), the signing of the Protocol on the Accession of the UK to the CPTPP took place in July, and the Diet of Japan granted approval for its conclusion in December. As for the Japan-EU EPA, Japan and the EU took the opportunity of the Japan-EU High-level Economic Dialogue held in October to announce that they had reached an agreement in principle on negotiations to include provisions on the free flow of data.

Furthermore, with a view to protecting and enhancing the livelihoods and activities of Japanese citizens and companies, Japan is working on the proper implementation of existing international agreements as well as utilizing the dispute settlement system of the WTO.

In social areas such as human rights, labor, the environment, health, fisheries, maritime affairs, aviation, space, and postal affairs, which are closely linked to the daily lives of the people, Japan actively participates in negotiations of international agreements to ensure that Japan's positions are reflected and also concludes such agreements. For example, in the space sector, the Framework Agreement between Japan and the United States of America for Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space was concluded in June, and in the aviation sector, the Japan-EU Agreement on Bilateral Agreements between Japan and the Member States of the EU for Air Services was concluded in July.

(5) Initiatives in the Field of Criminal Justice

The ICC is the first-ever permanent international criminal court to prosecute and punish, in accordance with international law, individuals who have committed the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. Since becoming a State Party to the ICC Rome Statute in October 2007, Japan has consistently supported the ICC's activities and cooperated with

the Court in various ways. Fiscally, Japan is the largest contributor to the ICC, accounting for approximately 15% of the entire assessed contributions to the Court as of 2023. Moreover, Japan has consistently produced judges since its accession to the ICC. AKANE Tomoko, former Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public Prosecutor at the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan serves as a judge (elected as President of the ICC in March 2024). Japan also cooperates on the activities of the ICC in the aspect of human resources, with YAMADA Jun, Deputy Secretary-General of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) newly elected as a member of Committee on Budget and Finance, among others. As the ICC evolves into a full-fledged international criminal justice institution, it is imperative to secure cooperation with the ICC, establish the principle of complementarity, and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in its judicial procedures. Japan actively engages in addressing these challenges, such as through its participation in the working groups of the Assembly of States Parties.

Furthermore, in the face of an increase of cross-border crimes in recent years, Japan is further working on ensuring judicial cooperation in the criminal sector, such as the mutual submission of necessary evidence with other countries. Specifically, as efforts to improve legal frameworks for promoting international cooperation in the field of criminal justice, Japan has been working on negotiations toward concluding international agreements such as the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT)49, the Treaty on Extradition,⁵⁰ and the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.⁵¹ In August, Japan concluded the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, which is a multilateral framework related to international cooperation. In June, Japan and Brazil reached an agreement in principle on the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and signed it in January 2024.

⁴⁹ A legal framework that allows for efficient and prompt cooperation with legal authorities of other countries in investigations, prosecution, and other criminal procedures.

⁵⁰ A legal framework having comprehensive and detailed provisions regarding the extradition of criminals to enable more effective cooperation for repressing crime.

⁵¹ A legal framework aiming to facilitate the social rehabilitation of sentenced persons by giving them the opportunity to serve their sentences in their own countries.

7 Human Rights

There is growing international concern about the human rights situations in various parts of the world. The protection and promotion of human rights is the foundation for peace and stability in the international community. Japan recognizes that human rights are universal values and that the protection of human rights is the basic responsibility of all countries, regardless of differences in the method of achieving this goal and their cultures. While speaking out firmly against any serious violation of human rights, Japan considers, under the basic principle of "dialogue" and "cooperation," that it is important to promote voluntary efforts of each country through bilateral dialogues and cooperation with countries that are working toward democratization and the protection of human rights. In addition, while advocating the standpoint of bridge-building in Asia and protection of socially vulnerable people, Japan puts effort into improving the global human rights situation through bilateral dialogues, proactive participation in multilateral forums such as the UN, and constructive dialogues with the UN human rights mechanisms. With regard to bilateral dialogues, Japan and the U.S. launched the new Japan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue on Democratic Resilience, and the first session of this dialogue took place in February (Tokyo). The 12th Japan-Cambodia Human Rights Dialogue (Phnom Penh) was held in August, and the 14th Japan-Iran Human Rights Dialogue (Tokyo) was held in October. Both sides shared information about their respective measures in the field of human rights, and exchanged views on cooperation in multilateral fora. At the Third Japan Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Policy Dialogue in November, discussions were held on strengthening cooperation between Japan and OHCHR, and the two sides exchanged views on Japan's efforts in the field of human rights, regional human rights situations, including in Asia, and other matters.

(1) Initiatives within the UN

A UN Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council holds sessions throughout the year in Geneva (three regular sessions per year) to discuss issues and make recommendations concerning the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Special Session on the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in Sudan was convened in May, and a resolution on the human rights impact of the conflict in Sudan was adopted. Japan has served as a member of the Council for five terms until 2022, and was also elected in the election of the Human Rights Council members held in October for the term from January 2024 to December 2026 (sixth term).

At the high-level segment of the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council held in February and March, NAKATANI Gen, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan for international human rights issues, delivered a statement. He stated that Japan firmly rejects Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundation of the international order, and called on the international community to unite once again to take action. He also spoke about Japan's continued determination to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights in Asia and the world, and stressed the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue. Furthermore, he expressed Japan's deep concerns over the human rights situation in China including Hong Kong and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and urged China to take concrete actions. He also introduced Japan's latest initiatives in the fields of business and human rights; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by Hansen's disease and their family members; realization of a society where diversity is respected and all people value each other's human rights and individual dignity, and where people can live their lives on their own terms; and the protection and promotion of women's human rights. The resolution on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), submitted by the EU and co-sponsored by Japan, was adopted without a vote at the same session (adopted for 16 consecutive years). This resolution strongly demands again that North Korea sincerely listen to the voices of the victims and their families, clarify the fate and whereabouts of disappeared persons and faithfully provide accurate, detailed, and full information promptly to the families of victims, and ensure the realization of the immediate return of all abductees. The resolution

also urges North Korea to engage in constructive dialogues with the parties concerned.

At the 53rd Session convened in June and July, Japan, as the main sponsor, submitted a draft resolution on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members. This resolution, adopted without a vote, is centered on extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members, for a period of three years, with the aim of eliminating discrimination and prejudices against persons affected by the disease and their family members that hinder their participation as equal members of society, for the realization of their enjoyment of human rights in all regions of the world.

At the 54th Session held in September and October, Japan, as the main sponsor, submitted a draft resolution on the human rights situation in Cambodia. This resolution was adopted without a vote. It reflects the concern of the international community over the human rights situation in Cambodia and encourages the Government of Cambodia to put efforts into improving the human rights situation. In addition, it also decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia for two years.

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly is, along with the Human Rights Council, the UN's main forum focused on human rights. Generally, in October and November, the Committee discusses a wide range of issues, including those concerning social development, women, children, racial discrimination, refugees, crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the human rights situations in North Korea, Syria and Iran, among others. Resolutions adopted by the Third Committee are then adopted by a plenary session of the General Assembly, contributing to the development of international norms.

At the 78th session of the General Assembly, the resolution on the situation of human rights in North

Korea, submitted by the EU and co-sponsored by Japan, was adopted without a vote at a session of the Third Committee in November and a plenary session of the UN General Assembly in December (adopted for the 19th consecutive year). The resolution refers once again to the contents of previous resolutions, including the urgency and importance of the abductions issue, which involves a serious violation of human rights, and of the immediate return of all abductees, and also strongly demands that North Korea sincerely listen to the voices of the victims and their families, faithfully provide accurate, detailed and full information to their families on their fates and whereabouts, and engage in constructive dialogue with the parties concerned. At the same session, the UK, on behalf of 50 countries, delivered a joint statement concerning the serious human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Japan was the only participating country from Asia.

In addition, Japan participated actively in discussions in the international community toward protecting and promoting human rights, including discussions on the human rights situations in countries such as Syria, Iran, and Myanmar, as well as on various human rights issues that include social development and the rights of the child.

Implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights

In response to the "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)" endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council, Japan has been promoting respect for human rights in the context of business activities under the NAP on Business and Human Rights, formulated by the Government of Japan in 2020.

Moreover, in order to support efforts by business enterprises to respect human rights, the Government of Japan released the cross-industry guidelines on human rights due diligence⁵² in September 2022. In addition, a decision was made in April 2023 on the Government's policy in relation to consideration for human rights in public procurement. The G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué issued in May also emphasized the need to deepen discussions within and beyond the G7 on

business and human rights. Furthermore, Japan also cooperates with international organizations, mainly in countries where Japanese enterprises are operating, to provide support to governments, and conduct training and seminars for Japanese companies and their suppliers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to steadily implement the NAP in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies, while continuing to engage in dialogues with the stakeholders.

(2) Initiatives Concerning International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Japan has actively been engaged in efforts for strengthening the national implementation of IHL. In November, Japan participated in the North-East, South-East Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference on IHL. Furthermore, as it does every year, Japan dispatched judges to the IHL Moot Court and Role Play Competitions, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as part of dissemination of IHL. Japan held a meeting of the IHL National Committee in December.

(3) Contribution to Refugee Issues

From the perspective of international contribution and humanitarian aid, Japan accepted refugees from Myanmar who were temporarily residing in Thailand, under a resettlement program that ran from FY2010 to FY2014 (the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to a third country that agrees to accept them for long-term settlement). Since FY2015, Japan has been accepting refugees from Myanmar who had been residing temporarily in Malaysia.

Thereafter, in light of dramatic changes to the international situation surrounding refugees and trends in the international community, and from the perspective of better balancing the burden of the refugee problem among the international community, Japan made the decision in June 2019 to accept more refugees resettling from third countries, within the range of about 60 people per year.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Japan and abroad, the acceptance of refugees for FY2020 was postponed, but this was resumed in March 2022. A total of 101 households (276 people) came to Japan from FY2010 to the end of 2023.

Refugees arriving in Japan undergo a six-month training program, which includes language studies for daily life and employment support services. Those who have completed the training program live independently in their respective areas of resettlement. Initially, local governments in the Tokyo Metropolitan area played a central role in operations concerning the resettlement of refugees. However, from the perspective of promoting national understanding of the refugee issue, active efforts have been made to resettle refugees in municipalities outside the Tokyo Metropolitan area since 2018.

While the acceptance of resettled refugees has been done primarily by Western countries, Japan is the first country in Asia to accept resettled refugees.

8 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which has been ongoing since 2022, as well as the armed conflict in the Gaza Strip, triggered by terror attacks by Palestinian militant groups such as Hamas and others in October 2023, have seriously affected particularly women and girls, as represented by the increase in the number of reports on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Furthermore, large-scale natural disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and large fires, caused by climate change, are occurring frequently around the world regardless of the country, and there are growing anxieties about healthcare, food, and energy. These problems further highlight existing gender inequalities. For this reason, it is necessary to prioritize the realization of gender equality and the promotion of women's empowerment as one of the most important issues for peace and prosperity in Japan and the world. It is vital to focus on various policies and measures for women and girls in order to realize a more peaceful and prosperous society. Gender mainstreaming, which is to incorporate the gender perspective into all policies is becoming increasingly important in the international community. In particular, it is important to maintain the perspective of "Women, Peace and Security" (WPS), the foundational concept that the international community has a better chance to achieve sustainable peace by the equal and full participation of women in all stages of decision-making leading up to post-conflict peacebuilding.

The Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2023, which serves as the basis for Japan's budget, covered WPS for the first time. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) established a task force under the Minister for Foreign Affairs in January 2024 to promote WPS across MOFA by using every available tool, including ODA. Japan will continue to contribute to the realization of gender equality including WPS, and the promotion of women's empowerment by hosting international conferences on women, vigorously supporting developing countries through development assistance as well as international cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

(1) G7

The G7 Leaders' Communiqué, which was issued at the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May addressed gender as a major theme across three paragraphs, and also touched on gender in the preamble and within the broad context of development, food security, labor, education, digital, human rights, countering terrorism, and regional affairs. Among these, it is especially noteworthy that the document includes the leaders' commitment to the achievement of a society where all people can enjoy vibrant lives free from violence and discrimination, independent of gender identity or expression or sexual orientation, as well as their advocacy for creating a "nexus"53 that bridges the political and security, economic and social spheres for maximizing the efficiency and the impact of actions, so as to deepen gender mainstreaming. The G7 Ministerial Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Nikko, Tochigi, held in Japan for the first time in June, was chaired by OGURA Masanobu, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment and Minister of State for Gender Equality. The outcomes of the meeting were compiled in the Joint Statement of the G7 Gender Equality Ministers (Nikko Statement). At the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Tokyo in

November and chaired by Foreign Minister Kamikawa, the commitment to further build international solidarity beyond the G7 to address broader global challenges such as gender equality including the WPS agenda, was incorporated into the Foreign Ministers' Statement.

Mechanisms to monitor the G7's commitments in the area of gender were also implemented steadily, including the revision of the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps,⁵⁴ and the publication of the first G7 Gender Equality Implementation Report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), among others.

(2) G20

In August, the third G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was convened in Gandhinagar (India) under India's G20 Presidency. The main theme of this meeting was "Women-led Inclusive Development as Cusp of Inter-Generational Transformation." Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment and Minister of State for Gender Equality Ogura participated in the session entitled "Skilling Opportunities for Women," where he spoke about the current status of gender equality in Japan and the relevant initiatives, the Nikko Statement compiled at the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Nikko, Tochigi, and other related topics. The Leaders' Declaration issued at the G20 New Delhi Summit in September affirmed the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, strengthening economic and social empowerment, and closing the digital divide between genders.

(3) International Cooperation for the Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries

Through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and international organizations, Japan is engaged in educational support and human resource development, as well as efforts toward the economic empowerment of women and the elimination of gender-based violence in developing countries.

⁵³ NEXUS: Means "consistency," "connectivity," and "continuity."

⁵⁴ With an aim to continuously monitor G7 commitments, in June 2022, the G7 Elmau Summit endorsed the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps, which selects 12 indicators from the areas of education, employment and social security, entrepreneurship, leadership, health and well-being, and funds for development cooperation, and maps the progress of gender equality in the G7 countries and EU.

A Educational Support and Human Resource Development

At the Global Education Summit held in July 2021, Foreign Minister Motegi announced in his video message that Japan will provide education support of more than 1.5 billion U.S. dollars over a five-year period, and support the provision of opportunities for quality education and human resource development to at least 7.5 million girls in developing countries. These efforts are now ongoing. At the 77th UN General Assembly convened in September 2022, Prime Minister Kishida declared that Japan will focus on human resource development and capacity building while putting the emphasis on "investment in people." He also assumed the position of "Education Champion" 55 and stated that he will promote cooperation through human resource development based on the outcome of the UN Transforming Education Summit.

B Supporting Women Through JICA

To promote the economic empowerment of women, Japan has provided support to improve the livelihoods of low-income female home-based workers in Pakistan, and promoted the provision of financial services that meet the needs of women in Viet Nam. To promote peace and security for women, it also provides support to strengthen coordination as well as the capacity of organizations involved in addressing trafficking in persons in the Mekong region. Furthermore, in South Sudan and Pakistan, Japan has provided cooperation aimed at protecting the survivors of gender-based violence and supporting them to gain independence. Japan also conducted training with participants from 12 countries, on the theme of eradicating sexual and gender-based violence.

Approach to Sexual Violence in Conflict

Sexual violence as tactics of war is a problem that cannot be overlooked. It is vital to put an end to impunity and to support victims. Japan has been actively working in this field to eliminate human rights violations against women in the 21st century. Japan prioritizes cooperation with international organizations such as the Office

of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), and participation in discussions at international fora. In 2023, Japan provided financial support of approximately 0.9 million U.S. dollars to the OSRSG-SVC, providing medical and psychological support as well as support for socio-economic integration to victims of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, in Mali. In 2023, Japan contributed an additional 2 million Euros to the Global Survivors Fund (GSF), founded by 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad, bringing Japan's total contributions to 8 million Euros by 2023 (as of December 31, 2023). As a member of the board, Japan is also actively involved in the management of this Fund. Furthermore, Japan continues to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), earmarking contributions for victims of sexual violence and putting efforts into protecting victims of such violence. In addition, Japan also provides support through UN Women.

(4) Initiatives in the UN

A Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

Japan is strongly promoting WPS as one of its major diplomatic policies. WPS is an idea that the international community has a better chance to achieve sustainable peace by the equal and full participation of women in all stages of decision-making from the protection of women and girls in conflict, conflict prevention to peace processes and post-conflict peace-building. It was first stipulated in the UN Security Council resolution 1325 adopted in 2000.

Since assuming her position, Foreign Minister Kamikawa has taken various opportunities to communicate the importance of WPS, at both bilateral and multilateral meetings, including visits to New York during the UN High-Level Week, visits to Southeast Asia and the Middle East, as well as the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meetings. During the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September, Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Focal Point Network High-Level Side Event and the Women,

⁵⁵ At the same UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Kishida, at the request of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, assumed the position of the first "Education Champion," fulfilling the role as a leader who promotes education in the international community.



Foreign Minister Kamikawa attending the WPS Focal Points Network High-Level Side Event (September 21, New York, U.S.)

Peace, and Leadership Symposium co-hosted by the International Peace Institute (IPI), the Government of Ireland, and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and stated that Japan will make further efforts to promote WPS as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. During her visit to San Francisco in November for the APEC Ministerial Meeting, she delivered a keynote speech at the WPS+I (Women, Peace, and Security + Innovation) symposium, on the theme of innovation to elevate WPS to the next level. In her speech, Foreign Minister Kamikawa pointed out that men's engagement is essential for the promotion of WPS and the empowerment of women, and that it is critical to incorporate the WPS agenda in the areas of disaster response, prevention and mitigation with natural disasters occurring frequently around the world. She also pointed out that in the current era when peace and stability are wavering, we should discuss the economy, peace, and stability as inseparable issues, and engaged in innovative and creative discussions.

From the perspective that it is important to learn from the experts in various fields and on the ground in order for Japan to take WPS to the next level, Foreign Minister Kamikawa organized a dialogue session as the second "WPS + I" event, entitled "WPS + Innovation - from the field of humanitarian aid especially for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)." The session was moderated by Ms. SATO Mariko, Senior Regional Advisor for Asia and the Pacific, International Organization for Migration (IOM). Foreign Minister Kamikawa heard from representatives from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),

the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and IOM, about the challenges they face and the role they expect from Japan, based on their experiences in the field of refugee and humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kamikawa participated in an event organized by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation entitled "Female Foreign Ministers of Japan and Indonesia Talk -Why do we need women's perspectives?" She emphasized the importance of women's perspectives in disaster response, and expressed that she would like to promote the WPS agenda together with Indonesia and other ASEAN countries on the occasion of the 50th year of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation, and to spread the mainstreaming of WPS to the entire international community together with Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

In addition, Foreign Minister Kamikawa delivered video messages to the Symposium on "Engaging Men as Allies in Women, Peace and Security" hosted by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in October, and the Reykjavík Global Forum 2023 hosted by Women Political Leaders (WPL), the Government of Iceland and the Parliament of Iceland in November. In her messages, she expressed her desire to further promote the WPS agenda.

In April, Japan formulated the Third Edition of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2023-2028) (an action plan toward implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the related resolutions). In line with this Action Plan, in addition to contributing to WPS in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia mainly through contributions to international organizations such as UN Women and OSRSG-SVC, Japan has also prepared a report on the implementation status of monitoring and an evaluation report by an evaluation committee comprising external experts. The WPS Panel Discussion "How Japan can contribute to promoting women's participation in international peace and security" was held in Japan in December as a follow-up event of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) and World Assembly for Women (WAW!), and working-level and high-level discussions were held during this event (See the Special Feature on page 268).

B Cooperation with UN Women

Japan strengthened its cooperation with UN Women and increased its contribution from approximately 2 million U.S. dollars (2013) to 20.66 million U.S. dollars (2023). In particular, for women and girls in developing countries, Japan works on strengthening their capacity to participate in the peacebuilding and reconstruction processes, economic empowerment of women such as livelihood and entrepreneurship support, and support for women victims of gender-based violence. Japan also supports women's economic empowerment through providing daily necessities to women and girls who have been affected by conflict and natural disasters, and job creation and vocational training.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The CSW held its 67th session (CSW67) in March, and it was held as the first in-person meeting since CSW63 in 2019. The session hosted discussions on the priority theme of "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment and Minister of State for Gender Equality Ogura explained Japan's initiatives toward women's empowerment in the digital sector (via recording) at the General Discussions. In the Ministerial Round Table, TANAKA Yumiko (Visiting Professor, Josai International University) spoke on behalf of Japan, introducing Japan's efforts to support women's employment in the digital sector, and to support improvement in digital skills for women overseas as a part of its international cooperation initiatives.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Toward Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment - the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) and World Assembly for Women: WAW! Follow-up Week

World Assembly for Women: WAW! as a part of its efforts to realize gender equality and women's empowerment in Japan and overseas. From the viewpoint of following up on these efforts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) held events on gender equality and women's empowerment in December.

Courtesy Call to Prime Minister Kishida by GEAC

On December 12, Prime Minister Kishida received a courtesy call from representatives of GEAC, chaired by Dr. SHIRAHASE Sawako, Professor of the University of Tokyo. The eight GEAC members submitted their final report, "Gender Mainstreaming for an Inclusive, Peaceful, and Just Society," and expressed their strong expectation that Japan and other G7 members will further promote gender equality and women's empowerment through gender mainstreaming. In response, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his wish to continue to further advance gender mainstreaming.



Courtesy call to Prime Minister Kishida by GEAC (December 12, Tokyo. Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

G7 Hiroshima Summit Follow-up event: Symposium on GEAC Report 2023 - Toward Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The "G7 Hiroshima Summit Follow-up event: Symposium on GEAC Report 2023 - Toward Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" was held on December 13. GEAC members discussed the contents of the recently published final report from the perspectives of experts in various fields with knowledge of gender issues. In her video message, Foreign Minister Kamikawa stated that the recommendations in the final report are consistent with the stance of the G7, and welcomed that ensuring the full implementation of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is included in the recommendations.



Video message from Foreign Minister Kamikawa in the Symposium on GEAC Report 2023 (December 13, Tokyo)

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Panel Discussion: "How Japan can contribute to promoting women's participation in international peace and security" - G7 GEAC and WAW! Follow-up event

On the same day, a panel discussion on WPS was held on the theme "How Japan can contribute to promoting women's participation in international peace and security." The first part began with an introduction by MOFA of the features of Japan's WPS Action Plan and WPS initiatives unique to Japan, followed by reports based on experiences related to WPS on the frontlines from the Ministry of Defense, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and NGO representatives, among others. In the second part, speakers including Melanne Verveer, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security; MEGURO Yoriko, Professor Emeritus of Sophia University; Maxime Houinato, Regional Director for UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Office; and Peter Roberts

OAM, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy in Japan, participated in a lively discussion on conflict and disaster response in light of the WPS agenda. In addition, Executive Director Verveer held an informal talk with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs FUKAZAWA Yoichi, during which they exchanged views on Japan's WPS initiatives and other topics.



WPS Panel Discussion (December 13, Tokyo)



Lunch meeting between Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Fukazawa and Executive Director Verveer of the Georgetown Institute for WPS (December 14, Tokyo)