Reform of the UN Security Council

Why Japan should become a permanent member

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
The Security Council Needs Reform
Why & How?

Since the UN’s establishment in 1945, the international community has undergone dramatic changes including the Cold War and its end, decolonization, regional integration and globalization. The number of UN Member States has increased from 51 to 191.

During this 60 year period, the institutional framework of the Security Council has remained basically unchanged.

The Security Council should reflect the reality of the 21st century, not that of 1945, in the composition of its membership.

Member States that are both willing and able to assume responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should play an integral part in the decision-making of the Security Council.

Developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America must be represented in permanent seats.

In summary, the Security Council should be more representative of the current reality of the world through expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories, including both developing and developed countries as candidates for permanent seats.
The Year 2005: A Historic Opportunity for a “Time of Renewal” of the UN

2005 presents a unique and historic opportunity to strengthen the UN through institutional reform, particularly of the Security Council.

- Security Council reform has been discussed in the Open-Ended Working Group of the General Assembly for more than a decade. However, little progress has been made to date.

  • **Momentum:** 60th Anniversary of the United Nations
  • **Framework:** High-Level Plenary Meeting in September 2005
  • **Motivation:** Constructive discussion among Member States

Missing the opportunity in 2005 means:
- A UN unable to adapt to the times
- A UN lacking the resolve to strengthen its principal role for the maintenance of international peace and security.

“It is disappointing that, for more than ten years, little or no progress has been made towards this [Security Council reform]. The Panel’s report offers two formulae for expansion of the Council. I hope that these will facilitate discussion and help the membership to **reach decisions in 2005.**“

Note by the Secretary-General
Mr. Kofi Annan,
A/59/565
Japan’s role in the maintenance of international peace and security

- Japan has taken an active and constructive role in the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Japan has contributed to the international community in many fields including “consolidation of peace and nation-building,” human security, disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Japan is committed to assuming further responsibility as a permanent member of the Security Council, by fully utilizing the ability and experience acquired thus far.

“We believe that the role that Japan has played provides a solid basis for its assumption of permanent membership on the Security Council.”

Address by the Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Fifty-Ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (21 September 2004)
Japan’s contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security

- Japan is dispatching its Self-Defense Forces to the Indian Ocean to assist the global fight against terrorism and to Iraq to support its reconstruction.
- Japan has dispatched troops to participate in eight UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and five international humanitarian relief operations.
- Japan has demonstrated that it attaches great importance to peace-building and nation-building in the post-conflict stage.
- Japan bears one-fifth of the costs of UN peacekeeping operations.

Japan’s contribution to the financing of the United Nations

- Japan is the second largest contributor to the UN regular budgets, contributing 19.468% (2004-06) of the total assessed contributions.
- Japan also voluntarily contributed approximately US$2.1 billion (2001-03) to the UN, its funds and programs, and specialized agencies, making it the second largest contributor.
Japan’s contribution to world development

- Japan has been No.1 donor in the world for ten years from 1991 to 2000.
- Japan provided a total of US$ 8.9 billion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2003, making it the second largest donor worldwide.
- Japan is actively working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in fields such as education, health, water and sanitation, and agriculture.

### Share of DAC total, based on official commitments (or disbursements) of assistance in 2002

**Education**
- USA 7%
- Others 28%
- Japan 21%
- Germany 16%
- France 21%
- The Netherlands 7%

**Health**
- USA 28%
- Others 32%
- Japan 13%
- France 8%
- UK 13%
- Germany 6%
- The Netherlands 6%

**Water and Sanitation**
- USA 7%
- Others 22%
- Japan 29%
- Germany 17%
- France 15%
- The Netherlands 10%

**Agriculture**
- USA 21%
- Others 23%
- Japan 34%
- Germany 6%
- France 8%
- UK 8%

Japan’s efforts for Human Security

- Japan is promoting the concept of “Human Security,” which aims at protecting and empowering people against critical and pervasive threats to human life, livelihood and dignity, and thus enhancing human fulfillment.
- Japan has established the Trust Fund for Human Security within the UN. By December 2004, total contributions amounted to $256 million.
- Japan, through the Trust Fund and other forms of ODA, supports projects and programs that address diverse threats, including poverty, conflicts, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) problems, and infectious diseases.
- Japan is launching the “African Village Initiative,” which aims to empower local communities in Africa to meet their own needs as appropriate to their own circumstances; by improving education, environment and health service, supplying safe water and developing agriculture.
- Japan has recently committed to provide 10 million bed-nets by 2007 to prevent malaria infection.