



Japan's Position on the United Nations Security Council for the 21st Century



Why Now?

The reform of the United Nations Security Council is high on the agenda for global governance. Despite profound changes in global realities, the basic structure of the Security Council has not changed significantly from its original form of 1945. Many States have strongly advocated the formation of a more legitimate, representative, effective and efficient Council, including an increase in both the permanent and non-permanent seats.

The discussion on reform has continued for nearly 20 years. If this continues any further without taking actions, the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Council are put to question. It is essential to act now towards achieving concrete results on reform, while the momentum for it is rising. It is up to the Member States to realize Security Council reform.

It is time for action, and Japan is ready to work in close cooperation with other countries.

Road to Security Council Reform

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In 1993, the Open-ended Working Group on Security Council Reform (OEWG) was established. In 2005, the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) and other groups made proposals for Security Council reform, but none of these proposals was acted upon. Since February 2009, momentum has been regained through the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in the UN General Assembly, where majority of the Member States expressed the need for reform through its many rounds of negotiation.



UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

Diversifying/Increasing Areas of Security Council Activities



The Security Council Is Not Reflecting International Realities of the 21st Century

Need to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Security Council

As the roles of the Security Council become diversified, including non-proliferation and peacebuilding, it has become essential and urgent that the Council is transformed into a body which can ensure the universal implementation of its decisions.

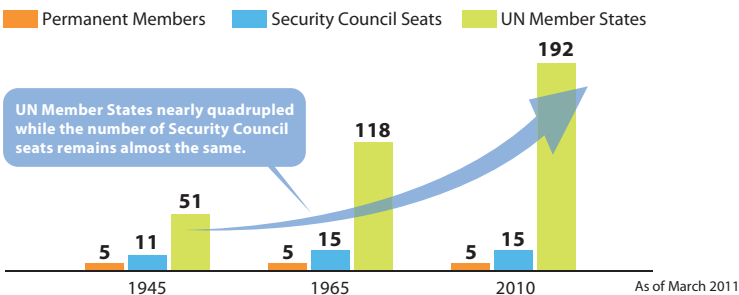
Increase in the Number of Member States

- When the UN was established in 1945, there were 51 Member States. Now, there are 192 Member States, nearly four times the original number.
- In comparison, the size of the Security Council membership was increased once in 1965, from 11 to 15 members, through an increase in the number of non-permanent seats.

For a More Representative, Efficient, Transparent, Effective and Legitimate Security Council

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"We support early reform of the Security Council—an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations—in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions."
(Outcome document / UN World Summit, Sept 05)

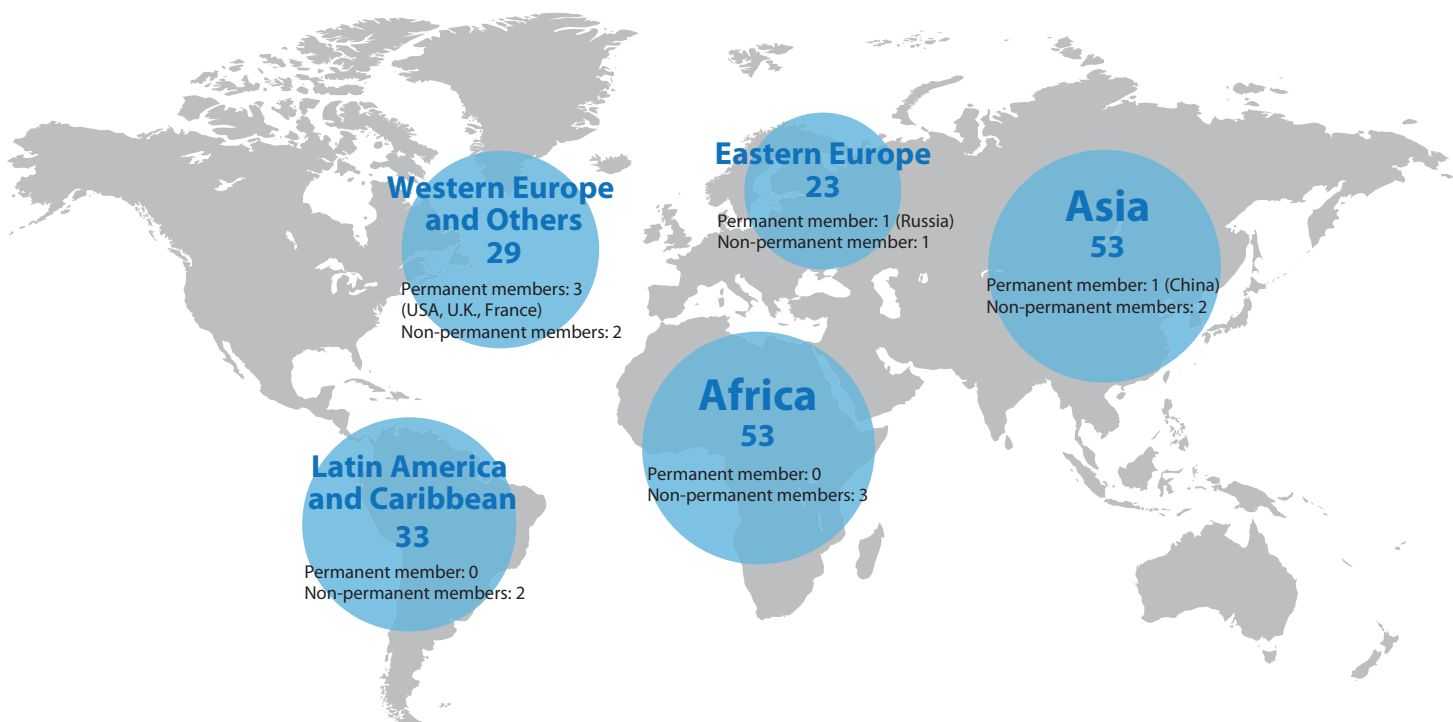
Number of UN Member States



Changes in the Regional Composition of United Nations Membership

- Asia holds 53 Member States in the UN, with more than half of the world's population. Despite its considerable growth, Asia is currently represented in the Council by a number equivalent to only one-fifth of the Member States (China and two non-permanent members).
- Africa also accounts for more than one-fourth of the Member States. However, there is no permanent seat for Africa and only three non-permanent seats.

Numbers of UN Member States by Region



As of March 2011

Why Japan?

All Member States recognize the need for urgent reform of the Security Council. Now is the time to take the process of reform towards a concrete outcome. Japan has demonstrated that it has the determination, willingness and capacity to take on further responsibility as a permanent member in a reformed Council, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Many countries support permanent membership for Japan, who has contributed in many areas such as peacekeeping / peacebuilding, nuclear-non-proliferation / disarmament, and its unique status as a non-nuclear-weapon State and one of the world's largest economies.

Japan, together with other G4 countries—Brazil, Germany and India—is ready to reach out to other countries and to work in close cooperation with them in a spirit of flexibility.



Kenshiro Imamura/JICA



Kenshiro Imamura/JICA



Hiromi Nagakura/JICA



Kenshiro Imamura/JICA



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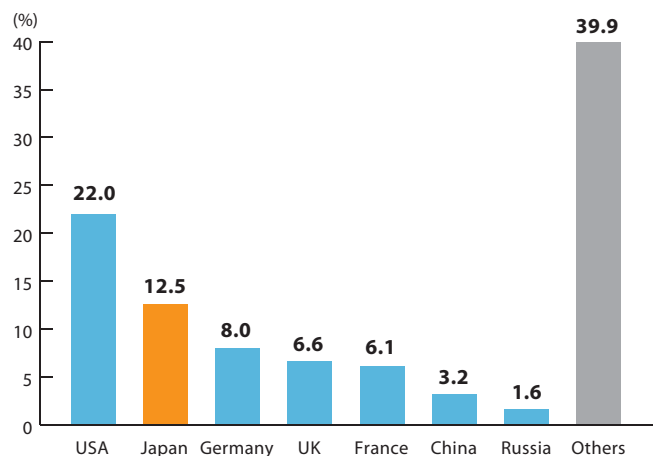
Yasuji Shoji/JICA

Japan's Contribution to the Financing of the UN

Japan is the second-largest contributor to the UN budgets among the Member States, bearing 12.5% of the total budget.

In addition, Japan supports a wide range of UN activities through voluntary financial contributions, which have been highly valued by the international community.

Scale of Assessments to the Regular Budget of UN for 2011



Japan's Contribution to International Peace and Security

Within the scope of the Japanese Constitution which aspires to an international peace based on justice and order, Japan has contributed in many areas including the following:

(1) Peacekeeping / Peacebuilding

Japan has designated peacebuilding as one of its major diplomatic priorities, in order to build the foundations for sustainable peace and prevent the recurrence of conflicts.

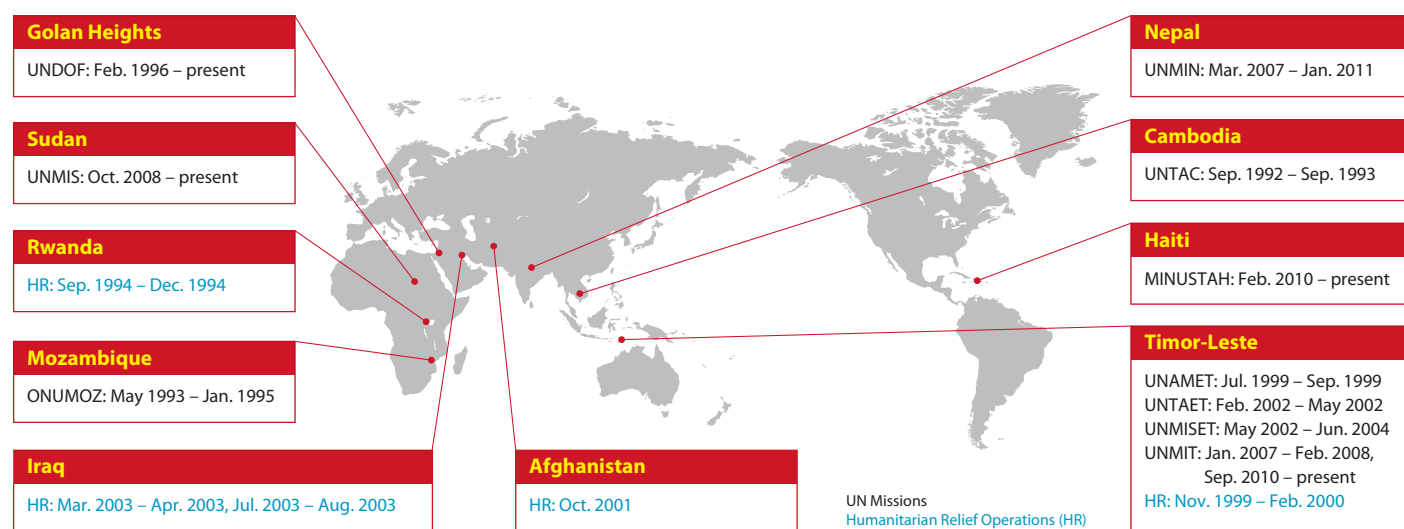


Jiji

Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

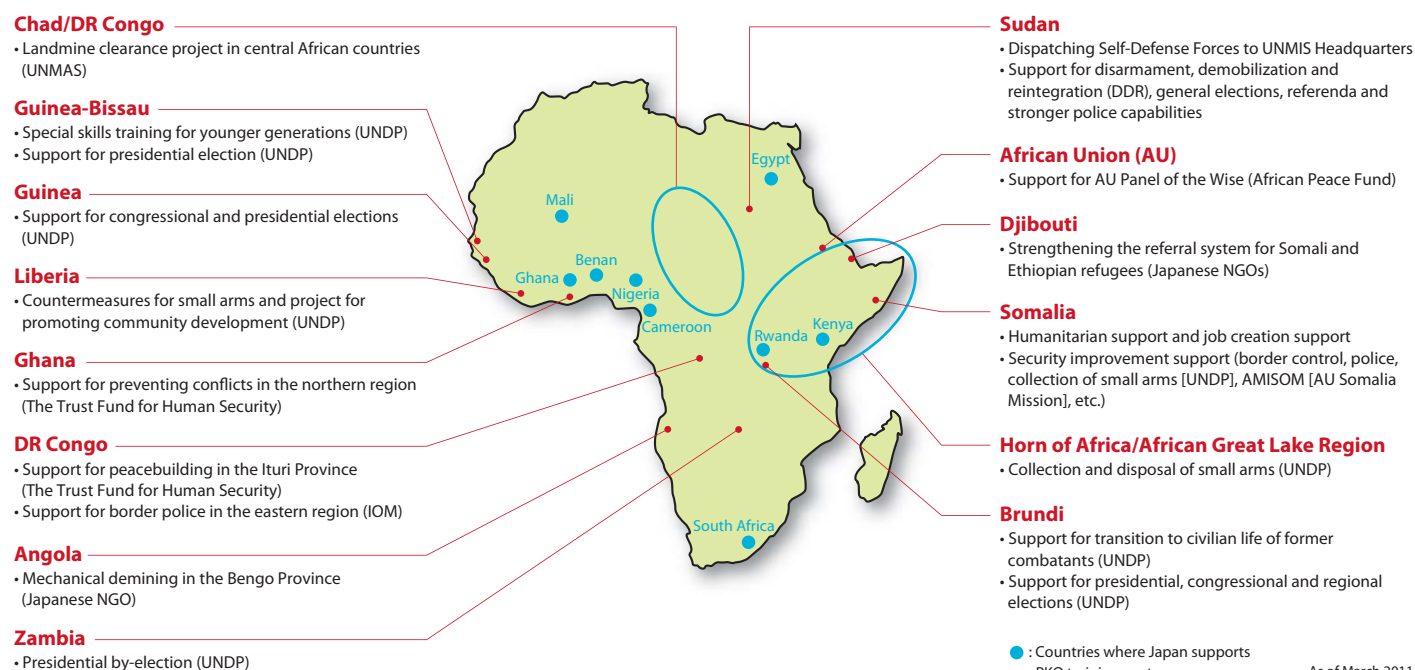
In recognition of the significant role of the PBC in advising on proposed integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, Japan has been actively contributing to the work of the PBC. Japan has chaired the commission in 2007-2008, and in 2011, Japan serves as Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

Dispatch of Self-Defense Forces and Civilian Police Personnel



As of March 2011

Japan's Efforts for Peacebuilding in Africa



As of March 2011

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Japan has incorporated peacebuilding as one of the four priority issues in its basic policy on ODA, and has contributed in diverse areas such as humanitarian assistance, assistance for domestic stability and security and assistance for reconstruction.

Security Council Working Group on PKOs

As Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), Japan made efforts to promote the comprehensive review of PKOs by inviting the participation of many stakeholders non-members of the Council, especially those countries contributing troops and police personnel.

Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding

Japan launched the program in 2007 in order to strengthen civilian capacity of Japan and other Asian Countries in the field of peacebuilding. About 110 Japanese and Asian trainees finished the program and many of them are working in the field such as Sudan and Timor-Leste.

Human Security

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In order to counter the diverse and complex threats in the globalized world, Japan upholds the concept of human security as one of the major pillars of its foreign policy. In this regard, Japan has been assisting communities in post-conflict situations, empowering refugees and contributing to conflict prevention through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, which was established under the initiative of Japan in 1999. Japan's effort resulted in the publication of the Report of the UN Secretary-General and a General Assembly resolution on human security (A/RES/64/291) adopted by consensus.



Ministry of Defense, Japan

(2) Disarmament / Non-Proliferation

As the only country to have experienced the devastation of nuclear weapons and a responsible non-nuclear-weapon State, Japan has the moral responsibility to take concrete steps to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

Commitment to Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

In September 2009, the then Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama attended the UN Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament. Japan is striving to lead international efforts for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the peaceful use of nuclear energy and nuclear security (i.e. prevention of nuclear terrorism).



UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

Exercising Leadership at IAEA

Mr. Yukiya Amano, former Ambassador of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, has been serving as IAEA Director General since December 2009.

Working towards Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Japan has been putting forward a resolution on nuclear disarmament to the UN General Assembly, every year since 1994, focusing on taking concrete step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.



The Art Archive / Culver Pictures

Proactively Engaging in Arms Control and Disarmament

Japan plays an active role in the field of conventional arms control and disarmament. Almost every year since 1995 Japan has submitted UN draft resolutions on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects. The draft SALW resolution submitted in 2010 was adopted by consensus. Japan also provides assistance to projects alleviating humanitarian consequences caused by conventional weapons including SALW, landmines, and cluster munitions.

What did Japan Achieve?

Below is a list of Japan's achievements while serving as a member of the Security Council during 2009-2010.

Towards a Secure World

North Korea

UN Security Council dealt with a series of North Korea's provocative actions during 2009-10. Among others, Japan demonstrated initiative in the speedy adoption of Resolution 1874 in response to North Korea's nuclear test in May 2009 and made significant contributions to the issuing of UN Security Council presidential statements condemning North Korea's missile launches in April 2009 and its attack which led to the sinking of the Republic of Korea naval vessel "Cheonan" in July 2010.

Iran Nuclear Issue

In response to Iran's continued violations of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in particular through its uranium enrichment activities, Japan has been engaging actively in the Security Council's efforts to uphold the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the Middle East. Japan served as Chair of the 1737 Committee (the Council's body for monitoring sanctions imposed on Iran) during 2009-10 and took initiative in ensuring the full implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the establishment of the Panel of Experts.

Towards a World without Conflicts

Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan has been discussed in the Security Council regularly, including consideration of the mandates and work of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Japan took the lead in the Council discussions on the issue of Afghanistan throughout the year 2009 by drafting resolutions and statements regarding the Afghan presidential elections in 2009.

Haiti

In the wake of the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti in January 2010, the Security Council increased the authorized strength of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by 3,500. In response, Japan dispatched an Engineering Squadron of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) of approximately 350 SDF personnel to MINUSTAH for the reconstruction and recovery of Haiti.

Timor-Leste

Japan, as the lead country on Timor-Leste in the Security Council during 2009-10, took a leadership role in the adoption of Resolution 1912 which decided to extend the mandate of UNMIT, amongst others. Since September 2010, Japan has dispatched two personnel of SDF to the mission as military liaison officers.

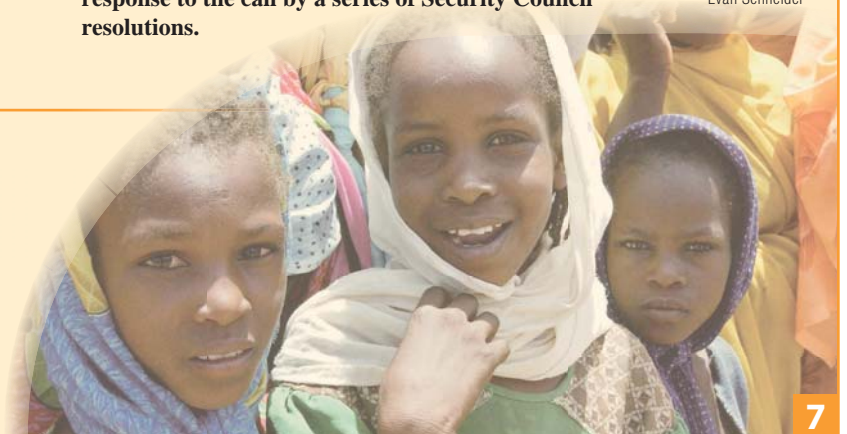
Sudan/Somalia

On African issues, Japan actively contributed to the discussion in the Security Council as to how the international community can better assist the general elections and the referendum in Sudan and dispatched the observation missions, respectively. Japan has dispatched two personnel of SDF to UNMIS headquarters since October 2008, and sent SDF off the coast of Somalia as a part of anti-piracy operations, in response to the call by a series of Security Council resolutions.

UN Photo/
Evan Schneider

Towards a More Transparent UN

In 2010, Japan took the initiative to issue a revised version of "Presidential Note 507," a document compiling various measures taken by the Security Council aimed at improving its working methods and transparency. It is hoped that the revised document will serve as a useful tool for the delegations of UN Member States to familiarize themselves with the current procedures and practices of the Council.



Japan at a Glance

Form of government: Parliamentary democracy

Capital: Tokyo

Population: 127 million

Area: 377,914 km²

GDP: US\$5,068 billion (2009)



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Kasumigaseki 2-2-1, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-8919, Japan
Tel: +81-(0)3-3580-3311
<http://www.mofa.go.jp>