

(Check against delivery)

Statement by Mr. Yasunori Nishida  
Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs

At the “UN Peacekeeping Ministerial”

29 March 2019

Distinguished delegates,

Discussions on ways to improve UN peacekeeping capabilities are important. Japan has co-chaired all of the previous PKO Leaders' Summits and Ministerials. It is truly my pleasure that today's meeting in New York adds to this record.

Japan will continue to contribute to UN peacekeeping operations through our commitment on the following efforts:

First, we believe that a high level of capability and readiness for each deployed unit and all personnel is critical for success of peacekeeping missions.

For the UN Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities (RDEC), besides the training in Kenya, Japan is ready to provide mobile training in a manner tailor-made for each Troop Contributing Country.

We will also dispatch our Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) personnel as instructors for the upcoming full-scale training in Asia and its surrounding region and will conduct a Training of Trainers Course.

Capacity building of medical personnel is another area in which Japan is eager to continue our contributions. JGSDF personnel have already participated as instructors in the UN Buddy First Aid Master Trainer Course.

Japan also made financial contributions to the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). We hope to see improvements in the performance of peacekeeping missions through the registration of highly capable units using the PCRS.

Second, Japan will contribute by taking advantage of knowledge and skills acquired from our past experiences. We are chairing the revision of the UN Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual. Stipulations on countermeasures against improvised explosive devices,

which is one of the critical challenges for UN peacekeepers, will be included.

Third, in terms of gender and women's empowerment, Japan looks to continue dispatching female staff officers to UNMISS Headquarters and female instructors to RDEC trainings.

In addition to these efforts, the Government of Japan will continue to contribute through dispatching personnel and is now preparing for a possible dispatchment of Japan Self-Defense Force personnel as staff officers to the MFO, the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Peninsula, which carries out operations similar to those of UN missions.

Let me conclude by reiterating Japan's commitment to the enhancement of UN peacekeeping capabilities.

I thank you.