

**Statement by Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Accra, Ghana
6 December 2023**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Japan, as a co-chair of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, has worked for years to strengthen UN Peacekeeping operations.

UN PKOs remain an important tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. As the operating environment is becoming more complex, with new threats such as IEDs and mis- and dis-information, improving the effectiveness of PKOs is of paramount importance.

Based on this recognition, I would like to present Japan's pledges.

First, Japan is expanding its contributions to partnerships, training and capacity building, in particular through the UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP).

With appreciation for the role that AU-led Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs) play in Africa in cooperation with the UN, Japan has decided to contribute approximately 8.5 million US dollars to strengthen the TPP by providing training to peacekeepers to be deployed to AUPSOs, including training in new areas, such as Counter-IED and Environmental management.

In addition, Japan will continue dispatching instructors for engineering and medical field training under the TPP.

Besides, Japan has bilaterally provided capacity building to peacekeepers in Asian countries, including Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as support for Peacekeeping Training Centers in Africa. Japan is committed to continue such efforts.

Furthermore, Japan intends to provide funding to CPAS (the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System), which is an important tool for enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping activities.

Second, Japan continues to share its expertise and knowledge regarding peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping Intelligence has become increasingly important to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers. Being one of the first donors to the Peacekeeping Intelligence Academy, Japan intends to support the establishment of an analytical technique course through cooperation on curriculum development.

Japan will also continue dispatching staff officers to UNMISS and explore opportunities for further participation in peacekeeping missions.

Finally, in terms of gender-related initiatives, our Foreign Minister Kamikawa is exerting a strong leadership in

promoting WPS, which is an important agenda especially for Africa. Japan will implement the projects to support conflict-affected women in Africa through gender-based violence related services and vocational training in collaboration with UN Women and the other UN Agencies. Japan will also strive to increase female representation among dispatched personnel to UNMISS and TPP trainings as well as send instructors to gender training in multilateral settings.

Japan will launch new capacity building programs on WPS between Japan and ASEAN, as announced during the ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting last month.

Japan remains committed to working towards enhancing UN PKOs and to further engaging in discussions at the Peacekeeping Ministerial and other forums.

Thank you for your attention.

(427 words)