

**Statement of Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary General for Operational Support
To the Members of the Japanese National Diet:
Committee for World Federalist Movement**

16 May 2022

930 words

H.E. Mr. Eto, Chairperson (Committee for World Federalist Movement)
H.E. Mr. Nakagawa, Secretary-General (Committee for World Federalist Movement)
Dear Members of the Committee,
Mr. Hasegawa, Chairperson (Japan Commission on Global Governance)
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends of Peacekeeping,

It is my great honour to be with you here today. Few countries can boast the long-standing contributions and commitment that Japan has upheld to the United Nations and its peace operations.

As the third largest financial contributor – to both peacekeeping and special political missions – as well as the home country of individuals who led complex and diverse missions, starting from Mr. Akashi, my sensei of UN peacekeeping in Cambodia, Mr. Hasegawa who I also learned greatly from in Timor-Leste and more recently my friend Mr. Yamamoto in Afghanistan. Japan is a fundamental partner and leader in UN peace operations.

Current Challenges of UN Peacekeeping

As you well know, the risks and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing threats of the climate crisis, and tensions amongst global powers have all contributed to an increased instability in the regions where we operate.

In Ukraine, we are witnessing the tragic and alarming results of a divided Security Council, unable to intervene when one of its own members is party to the conflict. In a global, interconnected world, the ramifications of the events in Ukraine are rippling far beyond the region.

All these factors contribute to making the task ahead of us more arduous than ever.

But they also help us recognize the enduring importance – and urgency – of collective action.

And the critical importance of each and every one of us in finding space and taking actions, where we can.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our peacekeeping missions have achieved great success in protecting the lives of civilians, reducing the number of combatants killed during civil wars, restoring rule of law and helping many countries make that difficult transition from conflicts to sustainable peace and development.

My Department provides operational support to peace operations to ensure that troops, police and civilian staff are deployed and sustained, and that they have the accommodation, rations,

fuel, technology, equipment, and medical support necessary to serve in their missions successfully. Increasingly, we are also providing the necessary engineering, medical and information technology training to UN peacekeepers through our Triangular Partnership Programme working closely with Japan and other partners.

Japan & Peacekeeping

This year, we are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the enactment of Japan's International Peace Cooperation Law and its first UN peacekeeping deployment. It seems especially befitting to be here to honour the personnel deployment Japan has offered UN peace operations over the past decades.

In addition to personnel in UN missions in these countries, I recognize that Japan also provided financial, in-kind and political support that were essential for effective mandate delivery. This level of engagement supports not only immediate needs, but also allows us to pave the way for sustainable peace and development.

I want to thank Japan for its longstanding contributions to global efforts to maintain international peace and security and to UN peace operations.

Increasing Japan's Contributions

Later this week, I will be reflecting on the long history of Japanese contribution to UN peace and security efforts at an event organized by the Kwansai Gakuin University and the Cabinet International Peace Cooperation Office, but for this distinguished group of eminent law makers and policy makers, I would like to humbly make five recommendations for Japan's future contributions to UN peacekeeping.

- 1. Become an Equipment-Contributing Country** and provide equipment to Troop and Police Contributing Countries that will deploy to our missions.

This is easily exemplified in Japan's recent decision to contribute non-lethal equipment to Ukraine.

- 2. Deploy small, specialized military units.**

Many countries that can deploy infantry units struggle to deploy highly specialized units including in aviation, communication and intelligence, and unmanned aerial vehicles— all of which Japan could consider deploying in small numbers.

- 3. Deploy civil police officers.**

Japanese police officers can play an important role in strengthening the capacity of local police for example by development of curriculum and textbooks as they did in Timor-Leste.

- 4. Lead on environmental management.**

Given the country's advanced technology sector, I believe Japan could play a leading role in our efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of our missions. For instance, by donating large scale hybrid photovoltaic and battery systems to provide power to UN missions.

- 5. and finally, further invest in new training, capacity building and operational support initiatives under the Triangular Partnership Programme.**

I am grateful for Japan's strong leadership in our Triangular Partnership Programme in which Japan has provided hundreds of Ground Self-Defence Force engineering trainers as well as close to US\$90 million to date.

I invite Japan to consider broadening its role under the TPP and offer training on Heavy Engineering Equipment maintenance, airfield rehabilitation, hybrid courses on environmental management, and women's outreach courses as well as expand telemedicine services to many missions.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I discussed in the beginning, we are at a time of increased political instability. In order to be successful, our operations must be a collective, strong commitment on the part of the UN, its Member States including those who make decisions regarding mandates and deployments of missions, T/PCCs that actually deploy their troops, and financial contributors.

We need the leadership and expanding commitment of Japan, which has a unique expertise and experience of serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council more than any other country, to help unite Member States and continue to make positive advances in our pursuit of peace, security and development.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support.