

**Statements made by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio KISHIDA on 20 September and
US President Joe BIDEN, Jr. on 21 September 2022
At UN General Assembly in New York**

FUMIO KISHIDA, Prime Minister of Japan

Statement Summary:

FUMIO KISHIDA, Prime Minister of Japan, said that 77 years after the establishment of the United Nations, the international community is witnessing the devastation in Ukraine and around the world. Calling the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine an act that tramples on the vision and principles of the United Nations Charter, he urged "any and all countries to be under the rule of law – not the rule by force, which we absolutely cannot allow". Stressing that the Organization exists not only for the benefit of great powers but the entire international community – including the voices that are often unheard but equally legitimate – he said that to reaffirm United Nations principles and ensure an international order based on the rule of law, the United Nations must be reformed and its functions strengthened.

The credibility of the Organization is at stake due to the aggression perpetrated by the Russian Federation – a permanent member of the Security Council – against Ukraine, he said, stressing that Member States must act to restore it. On Council reform – a subject being debated for over 30 years, he said the time has come to start text-based negotiations, pointing to the Summit of the Future in 2024 as "an excellent opportunity to broadly review the nature of the UN". Underlining that the General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning the Russian Federation in the strongest terms with an overwhelming majority, and thus proved to be the sole universal organ that represents all Member States, he expressed his country's determination to further revitalize the Assembly and push the United Nations so it can pursue an even greater role in the maintenance of peace and security, while continuing to support the work of the Secretary-General.

Calling the threat of nuclear weapons "absolutely unacceptable", he said that as a Prime Minister from Hiroshima he is firmly dedicated to a world free of nuclear weapons. Greatly dismayed that the Russian Federation's sole opposition blocked consensus on an outcome document that would maintain and strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime, he affirmed: "I, however, refuse to relent. Because we are only one country away from adopting the draft final outcome document by consensus". Japan also seeks to normalize its relationship with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in accordance with the Pyongyang Declaration signed 20 years ago by

the two countries, he said, expressing Japan's willingness to engage on matters of mutual concern and his openness to meet with President Kim Jong-un without any conditions. He also touched on Japan's contributions to peacekeeping operations since 1992.

Stressing that strengthening the rule of law is especially important for vulnerable nations, while leading to sustainable growth and development for all, he stated Japan's contribution to cooperation with other countries, including towards the realization of a "free and open Indo-Pacific." Serving as a non-permanent Security Council member from next January, Japan intends to take action to strengthen the rule of law in the international community and efforts based on the concept of human security in the new era, by enhancing resilience of individuals, societies and nations. Japan will also continue to support initiatives through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and invest in people. He said that at the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, he announced a \$30 billion investment in Africa over the next three years, and that his country will also focus on human resource development and capacity-building in other parts of the world, underscoring the role of education. The country has provided approximately \$5 billion to support the COVID-19 response, including through the COVAX Facility, and decided to contribute \$1.08 billion to the Global Fund over the next three years, he said, stressing that the country will chair the Group of Seven (G7) Summit next year. Committing to revise its Development Cooperation Charter, and supporting *Our Common Agenda*, he concluded by expressing determination to work with all to strengthen the Organization.

United States of America

Mr. Joseph R. BIDEN, Jr., President

Statement Summary:

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, President of the United States, said in the last year, our world has experienced great upheaval. Growing crisis and food insecurity, record heat, floods and droughts, COVID-19, inflation and a brutal needless war chosen by one man. A permanent member of the Security Council invaded its neighbour and attempted to erase the sovereign State from the map, he cautioned, adding that the Russian Federation has shamelessly violated the core tenants of the Charter of the United Nations. Just today, President Vladimir Putin has made nuclear threats against Europe in disregard to the non-proliferation regime; furthermore, the Russian Federation is calling up more soldiers to join the fight and the Kremlin is organizing sham referenda to try to annex parts of Ukraine. Mr. Putin claims he had to act because his country was threatened; however, no

one threatened the Russian Federation and no one other than Moscow sought conflict. In fact, the United States warned it was coming. Just before the invasion, Mr. Putin asserted that Ukraine was “created by the Russian Federation” and never had “real statehood”. Spotlighting attacks on schools, railway stations, hospitals and centres of Ukrainian history and culture, he stressed that this war is about extinguishing Ukraine’s right to exist as a State.

Drawing attention to massive humanitarian aid and direct economic support his country provided to Ukraine, more than \$25 billion to date, he highlighted that more than 40 countries have contributed billions to help Ukraine defend itself. “We chose liberty. We chose sovereignty. We chose principles to which every party to the United Nations Charter is beholding. We stood with Ukraine,” he asserted. Ukraine has the same rights that belong to every sovereign nation, he said, rejecting the use of war to conquer nations and expand borders through bloodshed.

Calling for greater inclusiveness, he said members of the Security Council should defend the Charter and refrain from the use of veto except in extraordinary situations to ensure the organ remains credible and effective. To this end, he expressed support for increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Council, including permanent seats for countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States is opening an era of relentless diplomacy to address challenges such as tackling climate change, strengthening global health security and feeding the world. On his climate agenda, he spotlighted rejoining the Paris Agreement, convening two major climate summits, helping get two thirds of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP) on track to limit warming to 1.5°C and now signing a historic piece of legislation that included the greatest climate commitment the United States has ever made: \$369 billion towards climate change.

Turning to global crises, he recalled much of Pakistan is still under water while the Horn of Africa faces unprecedented drought. “This is the human cost of climate change and it is growing,” he said. On global health, he commented that the United States delivered more than 620 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 116 countries around the world, all free of charge. With 193 million people around the world experiencing acute food insecurity, he announced another \$2.9 billion in support for lifesaving humanitarian and food security assistance for 2022 alone. Meanwhile, he continued, the Russian Federation is pumping out lies trying to pin the blame for the food crisis on the sanctions imposed by many in the world for the aggression against Ukraine. “Our sanctions explicitly allow Russia the ability to export food,” he stressed, adding only Moscow can end food insecurity. “Nothing else

matters if parents cannot feed their children,” he underscored, calling on all countries to refrain from banning food exports or hoarding grain while so many people are suffering.

He went on to underscore the commitment by the United States to work with every nation, including its competitors, to solve global problems like climate change. Addressing the competition between the United States and China, he said his country does not seek conflict or a cold war. Seeking to uphold peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, the United States remains committed to its One China policy, which has helped prevent conflict for four decades, he said, adding that his country will continue to oppose unilateral changes in the status quo by either side. He further urged a Venezuelan-led dialogue and a return to free and fair elections, expressed his support for Haiti as it faces politically-fuelled gang violence and an enormous human crisis and reiterated his commitment to continue to back the United Nations mediated truce in Yemen. “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,” he asserted, voicing concern over disturbing trends introduced by the Russian Federation, Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and China. “China is conducting an unprecedented, concerning nuclear build-up without any transparency,” he said, stressing that the United States “will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon”.

[Source](#)



国連安保理改革へ大きな前進

国連総会で安保理改革へ向けて素晴らしい進展があった。

岸田総理が安保理改革の必要性について熱を込めた演説を9月20日に行った。その翌日にバイデン大統領が国連総会での演説で安保理改革を前進するためにゴーサインを出した。岸田総理は、安全保障理事会の機能不全を是正するためには、本当に必要なのは議論のための議論ではなく、改革に向けた行動であると断言した。そして、常任理事国の中にも安保理改革に向けた意欲を見せる国々がいる事を述べ文言ベースで交渉を開始して、2024年の未来サミットで、国連のあり方を幅広く見直す事を促した。そして翌日の9月21日にバイデン米国大統領が安保理改革をしてアフリカ、ラテンアメリカ、カリブ諸国の常任理事国を含め、安保理の常任理事国と非常任理事国の両方の数を増やすことへの支持を表明したことは、今後の安保理改革を前進させる大きな力となったことは間違いない。

We stand at a historic watershed moment.

Seventy-seven years have passed since the establishment of the United Nations, yet we are still witnessing the devastation in Ukraine and around the world. What would the founders of the United Nations, who were determined to not repeat the scourge of the World Wars, think if they saw the challenges to the international order that we are facing?

We have all gathered here at this Assembly because we stand with the fundamental vision and principles of the UN Charter. The realization of an international community where all

Member States unite to maintain peace and security, and where all people can enjoy the economic and social development – isn't this what we are aiming for?

It is an imperative to maintain the international order where the rule of law is firmly established. The United Nations has been playing a central role in the development of such an international order.

However, we see today its foundations being gravely shaken. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an act that tramples on the vision and principles of the UN Charter. What is crucial is for any and all countries to be under the rule of law – not the rule by force, which we absolutely cannot allow.

The United Nations does not exist solely for the benefit of the great powers. The United Nations exists for the entire international community, founded on the principle of the sovereign equality of all Member States. It exists to fulfill the claims of not just the powerful and the loud states but also of the voices that are often unheard but are equally legitimate.

Especially at a time when the existing international order is being tested around the world, now is the time to return to the vision and principles of the UN Charter and mobilize our strength and wisdom to ensure an international order based on the rule of law. To achieve this, we must reform the United Nations and strengthen its functions. Former Secretary-General Hammarskjöld, who was killed in the line of duty while attempting to mediate a ceasefire amid the Congo Crisis, said, "It is our responsibility to remedy any flaws there may be in [the institutions of the UN]." In order to realize a world that the UN Charter aspires to, we must tackle head-on the strengthening of the UN's functions.

To demonstrate Japan's strong commitment to the United Nations as well as to multilateralism, I hereby declare Japan's determination to realize the vision of the United Nations. They are,

First, the reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to return to the vision and principles of the UN Charter, with the strengthening of the UN's own functions, including disarmament and non-proliferation.

Second, the realization of a United Nations that promotes the rule of law in the international community.

Third, the promotion of efforts based on the concept of human security in the new era.

Mme. President, Excellencies,

We must face the fact that the credibility of the United Nations is at stake due to the aggression against Ukraine by Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council. We, the Member States of the UN, must act to restore this Organization's credibility.

Frequently, debates about the dysfunctionality of the Security Council have been pointed out. We have debated about this issue for almost over thirty years. But what is truly needed now is not a discussion for the sake of discussion, but actions toward reform. Even amongst the Permanent Member States of the Security Council, there are some countries that have shown a willingness to embrace reform. But there can be "No reform without negotiation." The various positions cannot be compromised or converge without any negotiation. The time has come to start text-based negotiations to reform the Security Council. The Summit of the Future in 2024 is an excellent opportunity to broadly review the nature of the UN. By all means, let us gather a wide range of wisdom, including from experts, and build momentum.

Faced with the crisis of the international order caused by Russia's aggression, the General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning Russia in the strongest terms with an overwhelming majority. At that time, the UN was a beacon in the dark night, clearly indicating the direction in which the international community should go. The General Assembly proved to be the sole universal organ that represents all Member States, pointing us in the direction of the international community's just cause.

Japan is determined not only to reform the Security Council, but also to work earnestly to further revitalize the General Assembly and to push the UN so it can pursue an even greater role in the maintenance of peace and security. Japan will also continue to support the Secretary-General as he oversees the activities of this Organization.

Threatening the use of nuclear weapons, as Russia has done, let alone the actual use of nuclear weapons, is a serious threat to the peace and security of the international community, and is absolutely unacceptable.

As a prime minister from Hiroshima, I am immensely dedicated to the realization of a world

without nuclear weapons driven by the sentiments from the hibakusha. Last month, the sole opposition by Russia blocked the unity and concerted efforts by the international community to reach consensus on an outcome document that would maintain and strengthen the NPT regime, which is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

This caused me great dismay, just as it did for the overwhelming majority of the Member States. I, however, refuse to relent. Because we are only one country away from adopting the draft final outcome document by consensus. I believe this document represents a new foundation for the international community to proceed with realistic engagements on nuclear disarmament in the future. As the only nation to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan has a unique historic role and we renew our resolve to realize “a world without nuclear weapons.” We will continue to make realistic efforts to achieve this goal. We must ensure that Nagasaki remains the last place to suffer an atomic bombing.

This is the 20th year since the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration which was signed by Prime Minister Koizumi and Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-il. Japan's policy remains unchanged. Japan seeks to normalize its relationship with North Korea, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, through comprehensively resolving the outstanding issues of concern such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, as well as settlement of the unfortunate past. Japan is prepared to engage in dialogue on matters of mutual concern. I am determined to meet with President Kim Jong-un without any conditions and will miss no opportunity to take actions with all my dedication.

Japan has also made long-term contributions in the field of peacebuilding. Japan first participated in a full-scale peacekeeping mission in Cambodia in 1992. Thirty years later, many Cambodian personnel wearing blue helmets are protecting the peace and future of places such as Mali, Central African Republic, and Lebanon. Then Lieutenant Colonel Teav Chanrithy was one of those who was deployed to Lebanon after Japan's peacekeeping training. Since then, he has been active as a peacebuilder, mentoring younger generations at the PKO training center for the Cambodian Armed Forces.

The torch of peace created through Japan's contributions to peacekeeping operations will be borne beyond generations and across borders. Japan supports it.

Mme. President, Excellencies,

Next, Japan is fully committed to the realization of a United Nations that promotes the rule of law in the international community.

The rule of law is not reserved for one particular State or region. We need to remind ourselves that the rule of law is especially important for vulnerable nations.

Strengthening the rule of law based on international law will, in the long run, benefit all States and lead to sustainable growth and sound development of the international community.

Based on this belief, Japan has been playing an active role in various fields in cooperation with other countries, including efforts towards the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

In 1970, overcoming serious divisions among Member States at the time and with persistent dialogue, the General Assembly adopted the "Friendly Relations Declaration." This Declaration, the fruit of our predecessors' wisdom, serves as a foundation from which the basic principles for the promotion of the rule of law are drawn.

The following basic principles for States emerge from this declaration: first, break away from "rule by force" and pursue "rule of law" through observing international law in good faith; second, in this regard, do not allow any attempts to change the status quo of territories and areas by force or coercion; and third, to cooperate with one another against serious violations of the principles of the UN Charter.

We are convinced that these basic principles serve as the basis to hold an increasingly divided international community together while ensuring respect for human rights and achieving sustainable development.

From next January, Japan will serve as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. By listening not only to the big voices but also being attentive to the small voices, we intend to take action to strengthen the rule of law in the international community.

Mme. President, Excellencies,

Japan will strengthen efforts based on the concept of human security in the new era.

People deserve to enjoy a high-quality life, free from anxiety and fear. The concept of human security has not changed, but now, we are standing at a historical watershed moment, and facing a new challenge. Today, in addition to global pandemics, the use of force and coercion against other countries, food and energy insecurity, inflation and climate change are all interconnected and threaten the safety of people now more than ever, further exacerbating poverty and disease.

The Sustainable Development Goals aim for a society in which no one is left behind, and their achievement requires the realization of human security in the new area. In doing so, the key is to enhance the resilience of individuals, societies, and nations to cope with the changes and challenges specific to our times.

The Adjumani District in Uganda is facing difficult and complicated issues such as the increasing influx of refugees from neighboring countries, and rising costs due to the situation in Ukraine, which is just one example of the difficult and complex challenges that the world is facing today.

Moini Fred, an administrator from Adjumani, learned through JICA training, how to incorporate the views of both refugees and his compatriots in running his District. Despite its own economic difficulties, Adjumani District continues to provide administrative services as well as support to refugees, and Mr. Fred is working hard to build a cohesive community free of ethnicity- or nationality-based tensions.

With a shaking international order and people's anxiety growing, Japan will work with the United Nations to realize human security in the new era, including initiatives through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. In addition, Japan will also continue to invest generously in people.

At TICAD 8 (the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development) in August this year, I announced the investment of US\$30 billion in Africa as the sum of public and private financial contributions over the next three years, with an emphasis on "investment in people." Japan will also focus on human resource development and capacity-building in other parts of the world. Based on my conviction that education is the foundation of peace, I will assume the position as an "Education Champion" and I will promote cooperation through human resource development based on the outcome of the UN Transforming Education Summit.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also illustrated the importance of human health and efforts to protect people from diseases. Japan has provided a total of approximately US\$5 billion to support the COVID-19 response, including vaccine-related assistance through COVAX and other programs. Japan has also decided to contribute US\$1.08 billion to the Global Fund over the next three years. Japan will continue to take a leading role in strengthening the global health architecture and achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in the post-COVID-19 era, toward the G7 Summit that I will chair next year.

Japan is also steadily contributing to the creation of a world where people can enjoy a high quality life in a safe environment. Our emergency assistance and support to strengthen the resilience of food systems to ensure food security, as well as our role in the development of international standards and norms in the field of information and telecommunications through the efforts at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other organizations, are just a few examples. In order to promote these efforts, Japan will also revise its "Development Cooperation Charter," which articulates the basic policy of our development cooperation policies.

I support Secretary-General Guterres's leadership in presenting "Our Common Agenda" as a response to the current and future challenges facing the international community. As history experiences this dramatic change, Japan will continue to support suffering people around the world under the concept of the human security in the new era. Japan will work together with the UN and other Member States towards the maintenance of peace and stability underpinned by an international order based on the rule of law.

Mme. President, Excellencies,

It is precisely because we stand at a watershed moment in history that Japan continues to have strong expectations for the United Nations. Times change, but one thing remains the same: the vision and the principles of the UN. With this conviction, I am determined to work with everyone to strengthen the UN.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.