

Statement by H.E. Mr. Yamane Ryuji
Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At London Conference on Somalia
February 23, 2012

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished guests,

(Opening)

First of all, I should like to express my appreciation and respect to H.E. Mr. David Cameron for his initiative to host the summit meeting on Somalia at a time when the country reached a turning point of achieving peace and stability after almost two decades of turmoil.

(Support for the TFG)

Now that Al-Shabaab has pulled out of Mogadishu, the international community should strengthen its support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) for further promoting integration in Somalia under the leadership of the TFG.

Against this backdrop, first, Japan is supporting the TFG's security capacity. Japan has taken care of stipends of 5,000 police officers in the TFG. A total of 500 officers who were trained in Djibouti last year are now on policing duty in Mogadishu. Second, based on the recognition that poverty is the root-cause of piracy as well as terrorism, Japan has contributed to job training and infrastructure improvement, resulting in creating 20,000 jobs for the poor and maintaining port in Mogadishu.

As a major donor to Somalia, Japan is ready to cooperate with all the regions and partners willing to work for the future of Somali people. We plan to provide additional 45 million dollars in assistance including the project of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in cooperation with the international society. Japan hopes that relevant countries will implement various initiatives including stability fund proposed by Britain after close coordination.

(AMISOM)

In order to seize the opportunity created by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on precious sacrifices, Japan welcomes that the UN Security Council adopted the constructive resolution to allow AMISOM to be funded in a more sustainable manner.

(Piracy off the coast of Somalia)

Regarding our actions against piracy off the coast of Somalia, Japan has deployed in the Gulf of Aden two Maritime Self Defense Force destroyers and two P-3C patrol aircraft on a regular basis since 2009. Japan also funded more than ninety percent of IMO's Multi-Donor Trust Funds. Japan has made a new contribution worth two million dollars and is the largest contributor to the Trust Fund of UNODC, which was established to support prosecution of pirates. Japan will further work closely with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) led by Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu. We would also like to share our experience on anti-piracy measures in Asia with the neighboring states around Somalia, including the experience earned from the activity of Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCCAP) Information Sharing Center (ISC), to contribute to the regional actions against the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia. For this purpose, we also decided to extend our ad-hoc contribution of 560,000 dollars to the ReCAAP ISC this year.

(Conclusion)

International assistance may vanish in smoke unless the TFG follows its own roadmap to establish constitutional law and make political reforms. Along with TFG's efforts, Japan hopes that the United Nations will work closely with the TFG and play even more active role in advancing the political process. Let me conclude my remarks by reiterating our determination to continue efforts with the international community.

Thank you.