

Japan and the United Nations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Japan's Contribution to the International Community at the UN

Foundation of the UN and Japan's Accession to the UN

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 under the pledge to prevent the recurrence of war. Eleven years later, in 1956, Japan joined the UN as its 80th member. Since its accession, Japan has contributed to a diversity of fields in UN settings. For example, as of 2014, Japan had served ten times as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC). Also, as the only country that has ever suffered from the devastation of atomic bombings, Japan has taken every opportunity to call the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation to the attention of the international community, gaining appreciation and trust from many countries.

Today, the international community faces a number of new challenges to be addressed, such as a rash of regional and ethnic conflicts, poverty, sustainable development, climate change, and human rights issues.

These global challenges should be addressed by the United Nations with its universal character.

For nearly three decades, Japan has been the second largest contributor to the UN's finances after the United States, and Japan is an indispensable partner in the management of the UN.



»» Japan's Contributions at the UN

In cooperation with the UN, Japan contributes to international peace and stability through exercising leadership in its areas of expertise, such as agenda-setting and rule-making for the international community.

A case in point is human security. Japan has upheld human security as a guiding principle in international cooperation for the 21st century. This principle won the common understanding of the UN's Member States in 2012, when the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on human security under the leadership of Japan.

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the UN. Since its inception in 1945, the UN has nearly quadrupled in membership, from 51 to 193 Member States, as the composition of the international community has changed substantially. The structure of the UN Security Council (UNSC), however, has remained virtually unchanged with the exception of its expansion to include ten non-permanent members in 1965.

There is growing consensus in the international community that the Security Council must be urgently reformed into a body that better reflects the realities of the international community in the 21st century, in order to effectively address the recent surge of new challenges facing the world. In cooperation with many other countries, Japan will take the lead in promoting the reform of the UN, especially of the Security Council, so that it can better reflect these realities and provide a more effective way to cope with emerging challenges.



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Striving for UN Reform that Better Fits the 21st Century



©UN Photo/Mark Garten

● Japan & the United Nations 01

UN Reform



Japan & the United Nations

01

»» Toward the Early Reform of the Security Council

In September 2004, Japan, Brazil, Germany and India formed the G4 to launch an initiative to actively engage with other Member States with a view to expanding the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent member categories. The 2005 UN Summit agreed to early reform of the Security Council in order to improve its efficiency, as well as its transparency, in order to further enhance its effectiveness.

Some progress has been made despite differing views among Member States on the specifics of this reform, mainly deriving from their conflicting interests and agendas. In February 2009, intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform were launched, creating positive momentum throughout the international community. During the 68th UN General Assembly especially, thanks in large part to the efforts of H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly for the 68th session, a non-paper providing a clear summary of the positions of the Member States was produced. Meanwhile, the G4 countries have also worked together to build momentum toward early reform of the Security Council through active engagements with other Member States. For example, they have held annual G4 ministerial meetings for five consecutive years since 2010, as well as wider meetings with other Member States interested in pushing this issue forward. In this movement, Japan has also played its part to engage with other Member States at various levels. Japan hosted an outreach meeting on this issue with the cooperation of the representatives from 14 countries and successfully organized a public seminar on Security Council reform in July 2014.

Japan's International Contributions and Other Qualifications for Permanent Membership

The Security Council is the UN organ primarily responsible for the maintenance of peace and security in the international community, which is also a primary concern of Japan. Up to 2014, Japan has served ten terms as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. No Member State except Brazil has ever served as many terms as Japan. Throughout its numerous terms as a non-permanent member, Japan constantly played an active role in the decision-making process of the UNSC. Japan's diverse contributions to the UN and other organizations, as well as in post-conflict areas in Asia and Africa, cover a wide range of sectors including disarmament and non-proliferation, peace consolidation, state-building and human security. Japan believes that this track record of contributions qualifies Japan to become a new permanent member of the Security Council.

Japan Promotes Administrative and Budgetary Reforms in the UN

Calling for better budgeting in the UN

For the past decade, the UN regular budget has doubled and the PKO budget has increased three-fold. This financial growth can be attributed to the increasing number of new activities of the UN and the number of peacekeeping missions. Despite the fact that the UN Charter stipulates that the expenses of the organization be borne by the Member States, our financial capacity is not unlimited. More efficient and effective utilization of resources is thus essential.

Japan contributes approximately 11% of the UN budget, inclusive of the regular budget, the PKO budget as the second largest donor, and UN agencies and organizations, also known as the "UN Family," in the form of large financial contributions. Japan is also committed to encouraging administrative and budgetary reforms in the UN to ensure a more efficient and effective utilization of resources.

As a major financial contributing country, Japan has called for the elimination of unnecessary spending at the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which is responsible for administrative and budgetary matters. As a result, the regular budget for the biennium 2014-2015 is \$30 million USD less than the previous biennial's final appropriation. The number of staff was also cut by 219 personnel for the first time in 16 years.

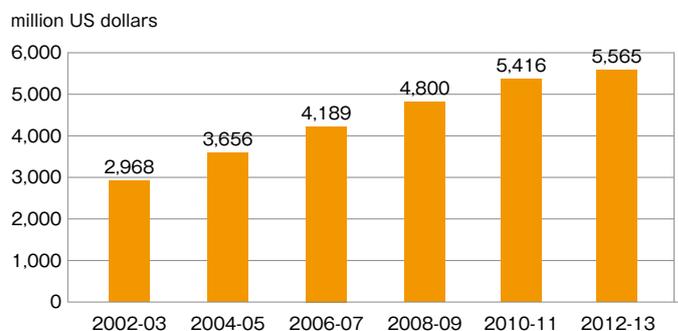
A More Efficient UN System

The United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) is pursuing reforms that will allow for integrated information management and facilitate the mobility of UN staff between different offices around the world by taking advantage of information and communication technologies. Japan supports this reform initiative and continues to actively participate in discussions to ensure this reform is appropriately implemented and produces concrete results.

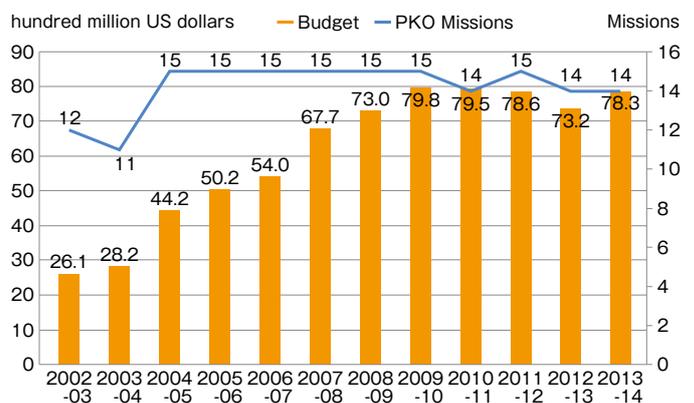
More Equitable Scale of Assessments

Japan's rate of assessments for the UN regular budget fell to 10.833% for the period 2013-2015 as a result of negotiations at the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2012. This represents a decrease of 1.697 percentage points from the previous three-year period (see figures below). Japan will actively contribute to future discussions to find a methodology that better reflects each Member State's real and current capacity to contribute financially, taking into full account the changing world economic situation.

●The UN Biennial Regular Budget. 2002-13



●The PKO Budget and the Number of PKO Missions. 2002-14



●Rates of Assessment for the UN Regular Budget of Selected Member States

Ranking*	Member State	2010-12	2013-15	Change (%)
1	USA	22.000%	22.000%	±0%
2	Japan	12.530%	10.833%	-1.697%
3	Germany	8.018%	7.141%	-0.877%
4	France	6.123%	5.593%	-0.530%
5	United Kingdom	6.604%	5.179%	-1.425%
6	China	3.189%	5.148%	+1.959%
7	Italy	4.999%	4.448%	-0.551%
8	Canada	3.207%	2.984%	-0.223%
9	Spain	3.177%	2.973%	-0.204%
10	Brazil	1.611%	2.934%	+1.323%
11	Russia	1.602%	2.438%	+0.836%

*2013-15

Japan's Diplomacy Sends a Message for Peace



● Japan & the United Nations 02

Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding



02

»» What Does Japan Do in UN PKOs?

In 1992, Japan enacted the International Peace Cooperation Law (PKO Law) to allow for the kind of international cooperation commensurate with its status and responsibility as a member of the international community. For more than 20 years since then, Japan has dispatched a total of over 10,000 personnel to 13 UN PKO missions in, Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Timor-Leste, Haiti and South Sudan, among others, thereby contributing to international peace and security.



SDF engineering unit removing the rubble of the destroyed museum in Haiti PKO



The SDF engineering unit works with locals to develop a community road in Nabari in the capital city of Juba in UNMISS

● Select UN PKOs in Which Japan has Participated

PKO in Cambodia (UNTAC)

Japan sent electoral observers to monitor the Constitutional Assembly election, thereby contributing to free and fair elections.

PKO in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

Civilian police officers from Japan provided training and helped create textbooks for the national police among other forms of assistance, significantly contributing to enhancing its capacity.

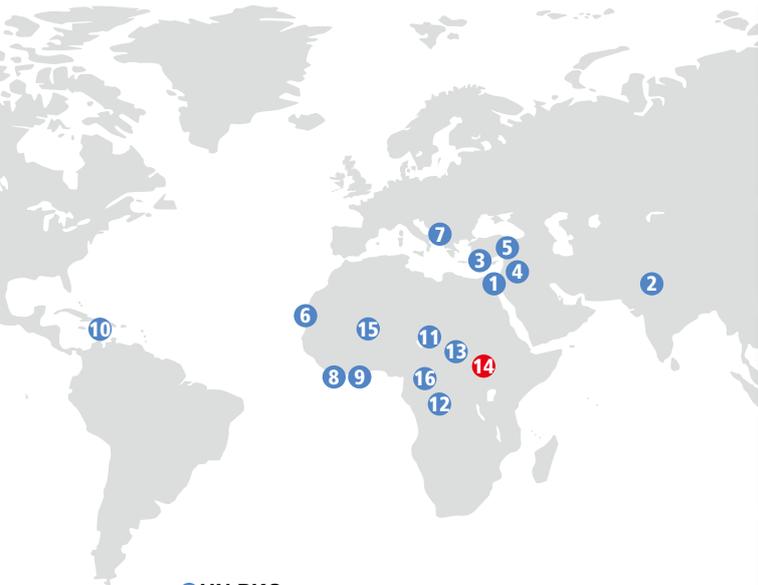
PKO in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

Japan sent Self-Defense Force (SDF) personnel, whose duties ranged from the removal of rubble generated by the earthquake to site preparation and restoration work, as well as medical activities including support for cholera control. In this way, Japan worked to support reconstruction in Haiti.

PKO in South Sudan (UNMISS)

SDF personnel from Japan are currently working to improve infrastructure that is useful to local residents, support internally-displaced persons, and construct UN facilities. In this way, Japan is making efforts to support peace and stability in South Sudan.

UN PKO Missions around the World



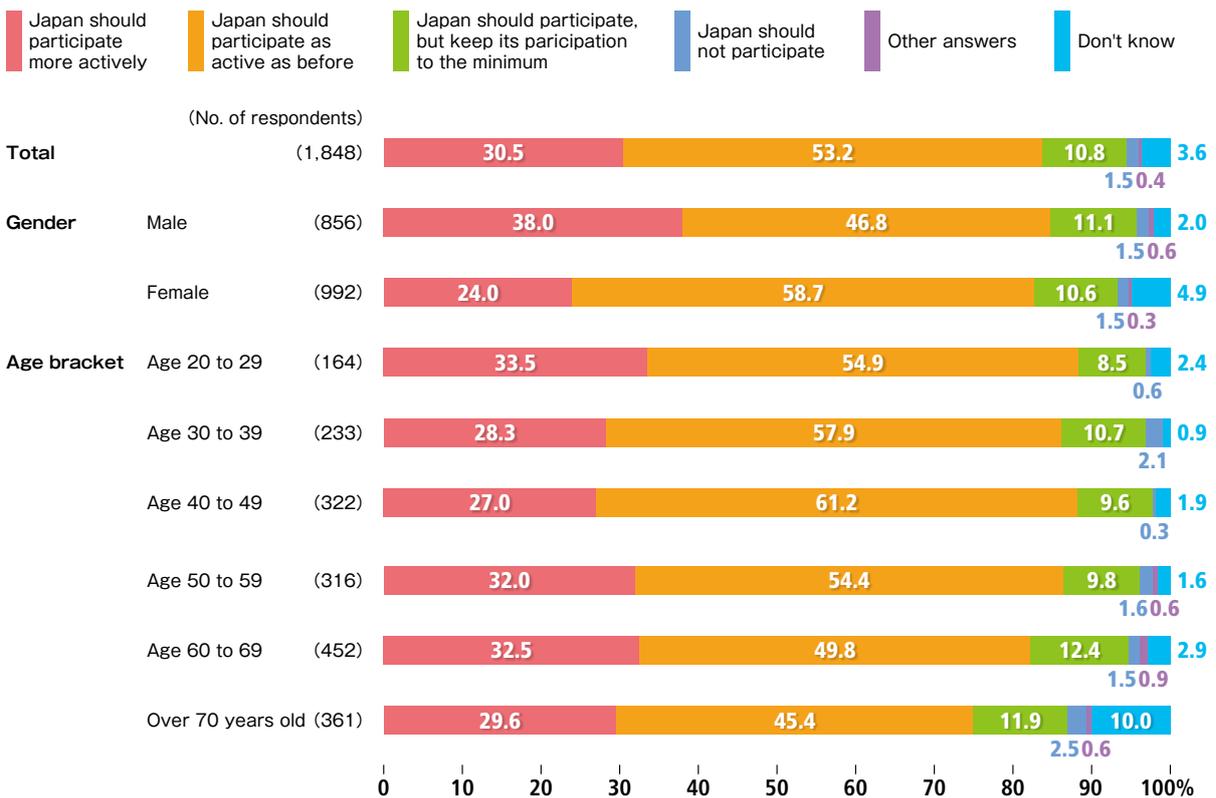
● UN PKO
● The missions to which Japan currently stations personnel under the PKO Law

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) 1948.6~ | 9 UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) 2004.4~ |
| 2 UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) 1949.1~ | 10 UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) 2004.6~ |
| 3 UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) 1964.3~ | 11 AU/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) 2007.7~ |
| 4 UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) 1974.5~ | 12 UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) 2010.7~ |
| 5 UN Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) 1978.3~ | 13 UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) 2011.6~ |
| 6 UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) 1991.4~ | 14 UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) 2011.7~ |
| 7 UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) 1999.6~ | 15 UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) 2013.4~ |
| 8 UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) 2003.10~ | 16 UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) 2014.4~ |

Source: UN website (as of the end of October 2014)

●The Japanese Public's Views on UN PKOs as Reflected in the Opinion Poll on Diplomacy

For many years, the Cabinet Office has conducted the Opinion Poll on Diplomacy. The following are some of the findings from a questionnaire on Japan's participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) in the latest Opinion Poll on Diplomacy.



Source: Cabinet Public Relations Office, "Opinion Poll on Diplomacy" (October 2013)

Japan's Contributions to Resolving Conflict and to Unstable Areas in the World

Middle East Peace Process

The Middle East Peace Process is the core, longest-lasting challenge for the region. The entire international community, including the UN, the US and the EU, is working to find a solution so that Israel and a future independent Palestinian State can live side-by-side in peace and security.

The UN is working to this end in many ways, including engaging with both Israel and Palestine, adopting UN resolutions, holding international conferences, and providing economic and humanitarian assistance.

In support of these international efforts, Japan continues to actively contribute to the realization of peace in the Middle East. This includes participation in the multilateral negotiations of the Middle East Peace Process as well as its contribution to, and cooperation with, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Between 1996 and 2013, Japan also assigned SDF personnel to the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Japan also continues to extend its own assistance, which includes the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" Initiative to assist Palestine with establishing a self-sustained economy, and the "Conference on Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development" (CEAPAD) to mobilize the knowledge and experience of economic development in East Asian countries.



■ Palestinian Territories



Rendering of Phase I of the Agro-Industrial Park in Jericho, a key project to realize the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity Initiative

Syrian Affairs

Triggered by anti-government demonstrations in various parts of the country, Syria has been rocked by violent conflicts involving the Syrian authorities, opposition groups, and radical armed groups since the middle of March 2011. To date, more than 190,000 lives have been lost across the country. The humanitarian situation there continues to deteriorate, and chemical weapons were already used in August 2013.

In response, the UN has been working in order to resume the political process and increase humanitarian access. The Security Council has adopted resolutions calling for the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons and an increase of humanitarian access.

In cooperation with international organizations and NGOs, Japan has continued humanitarian assistance totaling over \$400 million USD to improve the situation as quickly as possible. Japan has also provided financial assistance to support the activities of the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the UN, aimed at eliminating Syria's chemical weapons.



Syria and its Neighboring Countries



Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida at the "Geneva II Conference on Syria"

Assistance to Afghanistan

In January 2002, Japan hosted the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan in Tokyo to support the country's reconstruction and state building. Since then, Japan has assisted Afghanistan in diverse sectors through grant aid and other modalities. These sectors include agricultural and rural development, infrastructure development, education, health and other basic human needs, reintegration of ex-combatants and security capacity enhancement.

In July 2012, the Government of Japan co-hosted the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan with the Government of Afghanistan. The conference clarified the mutual accountability of Afghanistan and the international community and formulated a new mechanism called the "Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF)," to check and review the progress on a regular basis.

In Afghanistan, a democratic change of government took place for the first time in the country's history in late September 2014, following the Afghan presidential primary election and provincial council elections in April and the presidential run-off election in June. In cooperation with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Japan supported the Afghan government in implementing these election processes with grant aid. Japan will continue to provide appropriate assistance for the stability and development of Afghanistan in cooperation with the international community.



The Director (right) and other staff members of the Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital



The entrance of the Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital

Counter Piracy

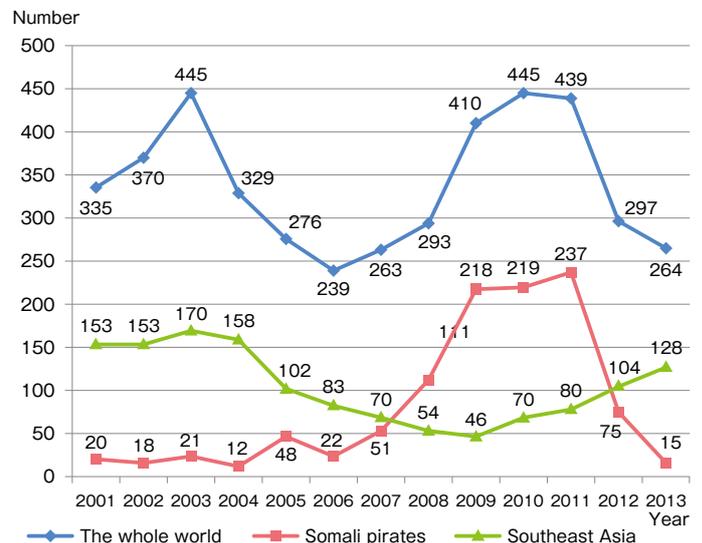
To combat piracy it is necessary for the international community to work together to deter piracy and support coastal countries' capacity to crack down on piracy. In response to a surge in piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia, starting in 2008 the UN adopted a series of Security Council resolutions calling for cooperation in repressing piracy.

In this context, Japan has deployed SDF destroyers and maritime patrol aircraft to the waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. Moreover, as part of its efforts to help enhance the maritime security capabilities of Somalia and its neighboring countries, Japan has contributed to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Djibouti Code of Conduct* Trust Fund, which finances the construction of the Djibouti Regional Training Center, the establishment of information-sharing centers in Yemen, Kenya and Tanzania, and the provision of training programs to enhance their law enforcement capacity.

Through its contribution to the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, which has been set up under the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Japan supports the implementation of projects that, for example, enhance the capacity of the Somali courts and train prison officers.

*The Djibouti Code of Conduct was adopted in January 2009 at a meeting organized by the IMO, a UN specialized agency. It calls on the signatory countries to take a number of measures against piracy off the coast of Somalia. These include improving their law enforcement capacity to clamp down on piracy, promoting capacity building, and developing a regional information-sharing system.

●Piracy Incidents off the Coast of Somalia (in comparison with the figure for Southeast Asia and the world's total)



Source: Cabinet Secretariat, Counter-Piracy Report 2013 (2013 Kaizoku Taisho Report), April 2014.



SDF destroyers escorting a commercial vessel

What the World Can Do for Irreplaceable Individuals



● Japan & the United Nations 03

Addressing Global Challenges



03

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent the shared goals of the international community to be achieved by 2015. The MDGs consist of eight goals, building on the UN Millennium Declaration, which was adopted at the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000 in New York. Many issues remain unresolved in achieving the MDGs even though it is now 2015, the target year for the completion of the MDGs. This highlights the need to set development goals beyond 2015 in the form of the post-2015 development agenda. The post-2015 development agenda will be adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015 following the process of inter-governmental negotiations earlier that year. The year 2016 will be the first year of the new development goals.

Japan's Stance on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Regarding the post-2015 development agenda, Japan has worked to improve understanding of its position and is actively engaged in discussions with the other countries and organizations concerned. The new agenda should reflect the changing global landscape of recent years. For example, it should address unfinished business of the MDGs including health issues, as well as those that are not covered by the current framework, including disaster risk reduction. Japan expects a post-2015 development agenda based on the principle of human security.

● The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Goal 1
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



Goal 2
Achieve universal primary education



Goal 3
Promote gender equality and empower women



Goal 4
Reduce child mortality



Goal 5
Improve maternal health



Goal 6
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



Goal 7
Ensure environmental sustainability



Goal 8
Develop a global partnership for development

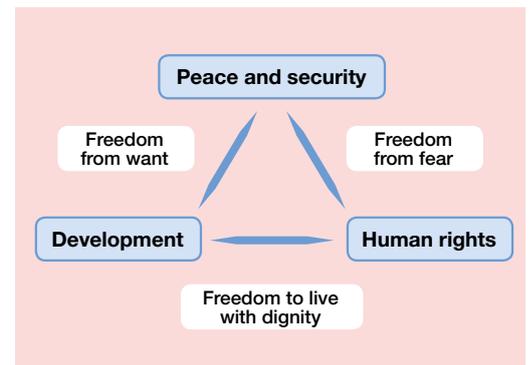
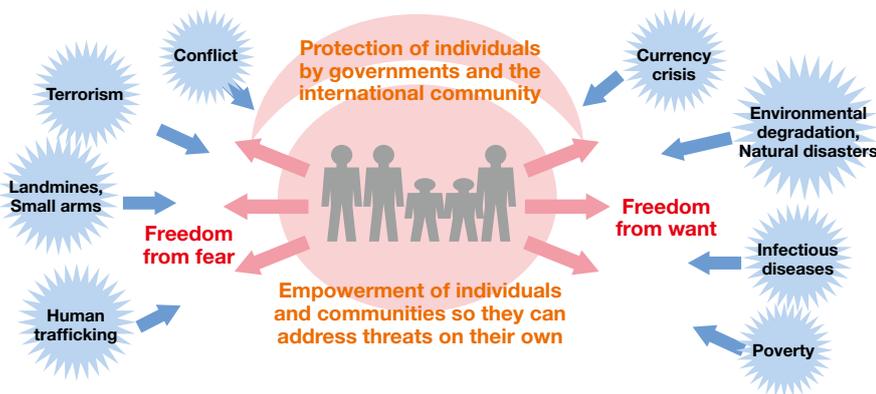
*The logos have been designed by the Global Call to Action against Poverty.

Japan's Efforts for the Lives of People on Earth

Human Security

Human security presents a concept that, with a focus on each and every individual, seeks to promote state and society building through the protection and empowerment of individuals so that they can live with dignity, free from fear and want.

There is growing recognition that, with the end of the Cold War and progress in globalization, the challenges facing the international community, including conflicts, refugee problems, climate change and environmental issues, have become too complex and diverse for any single country to address effectively. The increasing importance of a human-centered approach that goes beyond the traditional state-centered framework has given rise to the concept of human security. This term first appeared in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) 1994 Human Development Report. Japan is making efforts to promote this principle, upholding it as one of the pillars of its diplomacy.



Efforts to Promote the Principle

2003: Dr. Sadako Ogata and Dr. Amartya Sen submitted *Human Security Now: Final Report of the Commission on Human Security* to then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as co-chairs of the Commission on Human Security

September 2012: UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on the common understanding of human security under the leadership of Japan

May 2013: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon organized the High-level Event on Human Security at the UN, attended by Dr. Sadako Ogata, among others

June 2013: A High-level Event on Human Security was held on the occasion of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), attended by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, and Dr. Sadako Ogata, among others



©the UN Trust Fund for Human Security

The project "Human Security through Inclusive Socio-Economic Development in Upper Egypt" is underway in Egypt

Project Support by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security

The Government of Japan took the lead in establishing the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. By December 2013, Japan extended financial contributions totaling ¥42.8 billion (approximately \$390.21 million USD) to the Fund. The fund assisted 223 projects, implemented by UN agencies and other international organizations in 85 countries and territories to advance human security.

The objective of the Fund is to translate the concept of human security into the concrete activities of UN agencies through support for projects that address diverse threats including poverty, environmental degradation, conflicts, landmines, refugee and internal displacement, illicit drugs, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other challenges facing the international community, thereby securing people's lives, livelihoods and dignity in the real world. In concrete terms, the Fund, by focusing on each individual, supports projects designed to protect people from the above-mentioned threats and empowers them to enhance their resilience.

●Japan's contribution to the Human Security Fund

FY 1999	approx. ¥7.1 billion
FY 2000	approx. ¥4.0 billion
FY 2001	approx. ¥7.7 billion
FY 2002	approx. ¥4.0 billion
FY 2003	approx. ¥3.0 billion
FY 2004	approx. ¥3.0 billion
FY 2005	approx. ¥2.7 billion
FY 2006	approx. ¥2.0 billion
FY 2007	approx. ¥0.9 billion
FY 2008	approx. ¥1.8 billion
FY 2009	approx. ¥1.7 billion
FY 2010	approx. ¥1.2 billion
FY 2011	approx. ¥0.9 billion
FY 2012	approx. ¥0.8 billion
FY 2013	approx. ¥0.8 billion

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and many other UN organizations are engaged in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Japan continues to work with these organizations to promote DRR.

Amid the growing importance of DRR in the international community, Japan hosted the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai, which was hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. The Conference adopted a successor framework of the Hyogo Framework for Action*, an international guideline on disaster risk reduction from 2005 to 2015. Through the formulation of the successor framework, Japan has taken the lead in mainstreaming "DRR" – the idea of introducing the perspective of DRR into every development policy. As a nation that has experienced many natural disasters, Japan has also shared with the world its experiences in DRR and the lessons learned from them, as well as DRR technologies and systems that can contribute to realizing more resilient societies.

* Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

This framework was adopted at the Second UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, held in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The HFA provides a set of guidelines on DRR for a 10-year period, ending in 2015. With a view to making countries and communities more resilient, the HFA outlines five priorities for action:

- (1) Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- (2) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning systems
- (3) Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- (4) Reduce the underlying risk factors
- (5) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Many countries, mainly developing countries, are making efforts in DRR under this framework.



Recovery support through UN-Habitat (UN Human Settlements Programme) in Myanmar in the aftermath of a cyclone disaster



Humanitarian Assistance

The UN plays a central role in exercising leadership and coordination in humanitarian assistance based on UNGA Resolution 46/182, which was adopted in 1991.

Upholding human security as one of the pillars of its foreign policy, Japan has provided needs-based humanitarian assistance continuously and actively to the refugees and internally displaced persons generated by humanitarian crises, as well as disaster victims, while respecting the principle of humanity. In the process, Japan has worked with many UN agencies as a major donor. These include the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Learning from the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan has recently played a more active role not only in response to emergencies but also in disaster management and early recovery in cooperation with the UN to help build a resilient society that can cope with many different crises.



UNHCR delivers relief supplies to internally displaced persons while hoisting its flag high to show that it is a humanitarian organization. The third person from the left in the front row is a Japanese staff member of UNHCR

● Why is the mainstreaming of DRR necessary?

Every year, some 200 million people are affected by natural disasters worldwide, with average estimated economic losses of over \$100 billion.

The ferocity of natural disasters is increasing more than ever, as evidenced by the Great East Japan Earthquake and floods in Thailand, both in 2011, Hurricane Sandy, which hit New York in 2012, and Typhoon Haiyan (Typhoon No. 30), which devastated the Philippines in 2013. Because people, goods, and information are increasingly crossing national boundaries as a result of globalization, natural disasters can affect not only local areas, but also other countries by disrupting supply chains. In developing countries, there are still some cases in which DRR is not adequately reflected in development policies.

Disaster Relief

For disasters that require international relief efforts, the UN, with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at its center, plays a central role in exercising leadership and coordination.

For its part, Japan proactively provides swift and effective assistance, including not only personnel contributions in the form of dispatching Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams, but also financial contributions to UN agencies for humanitarian assistance. Japan also plays an active role in international assistance coordination through the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), for which OCHA serves as the secretariat.

For example, Japan dispatched JDR teams including medical teams and SDF units to the Philippines when Typhoon Haiyan (Typhoon No. 30) hit the country in November 2013. These JDR teams participated in the health cluster led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and played an active role in sharing information and coordinating relief activities. The health cluster was one of the sector-specific clusters that were set up in disaster areas to coordinate relief activities.



Japan's food assistance to the typhoon victims in the Philippines through WFP

● The Role of the UN in Achieving Universal Health Coverage

As the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draws near, the question is how to improve the health of people around the world beyond 2015. In this context, universal health coverage (UHC) is gathering momentum. The UHC approach seeks to achieve affordable access to essential health services for all people at all ages. To contribute to the attainment of UHC worldwide, Japan is working with a range of UN agencies. Among them are WHO, which takes charge of health affairs in general, UNICEF, which is responsible for child health, UNFPA, which deals with population and development issues including sexual and reproductive health, and UNDP, which addresses health services for the poor. Japan also works with the World Bank and other organizations responsible for health financing.

Climate Change

The year 1992 saw the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, whose ultimate objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, representing an international agreement to address global warming. Negotiations are now underway to agree on a post-2020 framework by 2015.

Japan is involved in negotiations with other countries to achieve a fair and effective international framework applicable to all Parties. Japan has been active in contributing to the response to global warming. For example, at the UN Climate Summit in September 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the three pillars of Japan's contribution plan: (i) assistance to developing countries involving the development of human resources in the area of climate change; (ii) technological innovation and diffusion for addressing climate change; and (iii) contribution to a future international framework.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses to the UN Climate Summit on September 23, 2014, in New York



Solar panels have been introduced in the Maldives with Japan's grant aid

Heightened Awareness of Human Rights Will Lead to an Affluent Country



● Japan & the United Nations 04

Protection and Promotion of Human Rights



04

»» How Does the UN Work to Protect Human Rights?

The UN mechanism for protecting and promoting human rights can largely be divided into two components: (i) the management of the UN human rights fora such as the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly; and (ii) the codification of documents related to human rights. Through both components, since its accession to the UN, Japan has consistently contributed to improve the human rights situation throughout the world.

i) Japan's efforts through the UN human rights fora

Through the UN human rights fora, Japan engages with developing countries using continued dialogue while taking their internal situations into account, so as to serve as a bridge between developing and developed countries.

A case in point is the series of resolutions on the human rights situation in Cambodia submitted by Japan to the UNHRC. These resolutions, which not only criticized the human rights situation in Cambodia, but also supported the Cambodian government's own efforts to improve the situation, were highly regarded by both Cambodia and Western countries, and were thus adopted by consensus (without a vote).

ii) Codification of documents related to human rights

Since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN has formulated various texts and treaties concerning human rights. For its part, Japan has already acceded to almost all key human rights treaties. This came after the country ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in January 2014, following an intensive process of amending domestic laws and creating new regulations regarding persons with disabilities more stringent than the minimum changes necessary for ratification. In addition, Japanese experts also serve as members on some treaty committees.

Japan's Appeal for a World in which Individuals are Respected

The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK

Japan and the European Union (EU) have co-tabled the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to both the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the UN General Assembly (UNGA). As of March 2014, this resolution has been adopted at UNHRC and UNGA for seven and nine years in a row, respectively.

The resolution adopted at the UNGA expresses the international community's concerns about the human rights situation in North Korea and calls on North Korea to improve the situation. The resolution also underscores serious concerns about the abductions issue, strongly calling upon North Korea to urgently resolve the issue and immediately return the abductees to Japan.

At a UNHRC meeting in March 2013, Japan and the EU co-tabled a resolution that called for, among other things, the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry, given that no improvement in the human rights situation in North Korea had been observed, despite the concerns repeatedly raised by the international community. This resolution was adopted by consensus (without a vote).

In February 2014, the Commission of Inquiry (COI) published a report following strenuous efforts that lasted about a year and included investigations in Japan. The report described the violations of human rights by North Korea, including the abductions issue, as "crimes against humanity" and called on North Korea to take concrete step. It also called on the international community and the UN to take further action.

Following the submission of the COI report, the UNHRC adopted a resolution co-tabled by Japan and the EU which was stronger than previous resolutions. Furthermore, the Arria formula meeting on the human rights situation in North Korea was held at the Security Council in New York. Like never before, the international community's grave concern about the human rights situation in North Korea continues to grow.

● UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is aimed at protecting and promoting human rights and basic freedoms. It holds a regular meeting three times a year in Geneva, with a total period of over ten weeks for discussions and recommendations. UNHRC was established in 2006 to supersede the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), which was established in 1946 as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. At the UNCHR, Japan served a three-year term after it was first elected as a member country in 1982. At the UNHRC, Japan served two terms from 2006 to 2011 and is currently serving its third term following its election in 2013.

● The Third Committee of UNGA

Among the six Main Committees of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Third Committee deals with human rights and social issues. It holds an annual regular session in New York from October to December. The regular session involves the adoption of resolutions as well as the delivery of addresses. Since its accession to the UN, Japan has been active in participating in these sessions.

COLUMN 1

Towards Realizing "A Society in Which Women Shine"

In his address at the 68th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2013, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe strongly emphasized Japan's determination to earnestly address the challenges facing women in the international community. He expressed his intention to strengthen efforts to realize "A Society in Which Women Shine"

Specifically, Prime Minister Abe outlined Japan's commitment to implement ODA in excess of \$3 billion USD over a three-year period from 2013 to 2015, based on the following three pillars: (i) facilitating women's active role/participation in society and women's empowerment; (ii) enhancing Japan's efforts in the area of women's health care as a part of its Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy; and (iii) supporting women's participation and protecting their rights in the area of peace and security. Japan is steadily delivering on this commitment. To date, Japan has also actively made several contributions in the area of women's issues at the UN. These include the formulation of the National Action Plan on UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in cooperation with civil society, as well as the submission of the resolution on "Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Natural Disasters" during the 56th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women."

Furthermore, in September 2014, World Assembly for Women (WAW! 2014 in Tokyo) was held, which sent to the world a very strong message that women's participation and empowerment were indispensable for creating an equal and peaceful international society.



©Cabinet Public Relations Office
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW! Tokyo 2014) in September 2014

Japan will lead the World as the Only Country to have ever Suffered Atomic Bombings in War



● Japan & the United Nations 05

Disarmament and Non-proliferation



05

»»» What Role does the UN Play in the Area of Disarmament and Non-proliferation?

Since its foundation, the UN has actively worked to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation. Discussions and resolutions on disarmament at the UN have had important implications for the international community.

● Major Discussions and Resolutions in which Japan has played an Important Role

1991 : Adoption of the resolution on the establishment of the UN Register of Conventional Arms

This resolution was submitted jointly by Japan and the EU to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) based on lessons learned from Iraq's excessive accumulation of arms that led to regional instability during the Gulf War. The key objectives were to improve transparency in armaments, facilitate confidence building among nations and prevent the excessive accumulation of armaments.

1996 : Adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The CTBT was adopted by an overwhelming majority at the UNGA after more than two years of negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion anywhere, including outer space, the atmosphere, underwater or underground. It also established four systems to verify the observance of the Treaty.

2001 : Adoption of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

This Programme, adopted at the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, set out specific measures to prevent such trade. Japan played an active role at the conference, with one Japanese representative serving as Vice-Chair.

2013 : Adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

ATT is the first universal treaty that controls the international trade of conventional weapons. The seven co-authors, including Japan, led the process by submitting resolutions, convening negotiations and subsequently adopting the Treaty at the UNGA.

Japan Proposes Mechanisms Designed to Prevent the Occurrence of War or Conflict

Resolutions on Nuclear Disarmament

Since 1994, Japan has submitted an annual resolution on nuclear disarmament to the UNGA. Each year these resolutions have been adopted by an overwhelming majority. In 2014, the resolution was submitted on behalf of a record number of 116 co-sponsor countries out of the 193 Member States of the UN. It was adopted with 170 countries in favor. This resolution contributes to the further increase of international momentum for the realization of a "world free of nuclear weapons."

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

Since 1955, Japan has submitted a resolution almost every year on small arms and light weapons (SALW) to the UNGA. Since 2001, this resolution has been submitted every year jointly with South Africa and Columbia. Since the co-sponsoring began, these resolutions have been adopted either by consensus or an overwhelming majority. They have raised international awareness about SALW and set out a course of action to address this issue.

UN Conference on Disarmament Issues

The UN Conference on Disarmament Issues has been held almost every year since 1989 in a regional city in Japan under the sponsorship of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. This forum for dialogue on disarmament and security presents an opportunity to positively highlight Japan's policies and programs on disarmament issues, both domestically and internationally. It also helps to raise public awareness of these issues in Japan.

UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme

The UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme is designed to train young diplomats and defense ministry officials to become disarmament experts. Under the Programme, Japan has accepted participants every year since 1983; a total of some 800 participants have visited Japan to date. They learn about Japan's policy on disarmament and non-proliferation. They also visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to learn about the catastrophic consequences caused by the use of nuclear weapons. Many of the diplomats on the frontline of disarmament diplomacy are alumni of this Fellowship Programme.



Participants in the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme (Hiroshima, October 2014)

COLUMN 2

Responses to Nuclear Tests and Missile Launches by DPRK

In response to a series of launches of ballistic missiles and nuclear tests, the UNSC has to date adopted five resolutions that include sanctions:

(1) July 2006: ballistic missiles launch

The UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1695, which condemned the launch and called on North Korea and other Member States to take specific actions.

(2) October 2006: nuclear test

The UNSC, chaired by Japan, unanimously adopted Resolution 1718. The resolution decided that North Korea shall abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, and that all Member States shall prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to North Korea of specific items related to its military or nuclear and missile programs, especially weapons of mass destruction, as well as luxury goods, along with preventing the entry into their territories of the persons concerned, and freezing the financial assets of these persons.

(3) May 2009: nuclear test

The UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1874, which enhanced the arms embargo to include inspections of cargo that passes to and from North Korea that is suspected of containing restricted items.

(4) December 2012: ballistic missiles launch

In January 2013, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 2087, which further expanded and enhanced previous sanctions.

(5) February 2013: nuclear test

The UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 2094, which further expanded and enhanced sanctions, including by obliging all States to inspect cargo that passes to and from North Korea and is suspected of containing restricted items.



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Working Hand in Hand with the UN

A Brief Photo History of Japan and the UN



©UN Photo/Marvin Bolotsky

1952.06.23

Application for UN accession



©UN Photo

1962.10.31

The Government of Japan and UN Special Fund sign a pact on establishing the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering



©UN Photo/AF

1956.12.18

Japanese representatives to the UN are shown to their seats



©UN Photo/YN/PAS

1966.11.28

Japanese Ambassador to the UN Akira Matsui is interviewed by T. Hashimoto, New York Bureau Chief for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), in the first satellite TV broadcast from UNHQ



©UN Photo

1958.04.29

Japanese Ambassador to the UN Koto Matsudaira addresses the UN Security Council



©UN Photo/YN/ARA

1967.10.24

Japanese Ambassador to the UN Senjin Tsuruoka serves as UN Security Council President



©UN Photo

1959.05

Ms. Yoshiko Moriyama from Japan works as one of the 65 UN guides who show visitors around the Organization in 21 languages



©UN Photo/YN/ARA

1968.10.04

Japan's UN Mission at the 23rd Session of UN General Assembly (From left: Japanese Foreign Minister Takeo Miki, Japanese Ambassador to the UN Senjin Tsuruoka, and Japanese Ambassador to the United States Takeso Shimoda)



©UN Photo/MB/Id

1961.10.02

Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda talks with UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld



©UN Photo/ARA

1970.04.13

UN Secretary-General U Thant visits the UN pavilion at the Osaka Expo



1985.10.25

The NHK Symphony Orchestra plays at a UN Day concert

©UN Photo/Miguel Jimenez



1973.02.15

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and his wife are received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Showa

©UN Photo/ARA



1988.06.01

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita is applauded by other countries' representatives after completing his address at the 3rd Special Session on Disarmament

©UN Photo/Y.Nagata



1973.09.25

Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira addresses the 28th Session of UN General Assembly

©UN Photo/NAGATA PAS



1990.06.12

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi talks with UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

©UN Photo/E.Debebe



1981.10.02

Japan becomes party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. (UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim (left) and Japanese Ambassador to the UN Masahiro Nishibori, (right))

©UN Photo/John Isaac



2006.12.18

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress attend the Commemorative Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of Japan's Admission to the UN



1982.04.20

Marcela Temple Seminario, the wife of UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, clad in a kimono and flanked by the Japanese delegation visiting the UN to introduce Japanese kimono culture

©UN Photo/Milton Grant



2010.08.06

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon becomes the first UN Secretary-General to attend the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, calling for a world free of nuclear weapons

©UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



1983.09.28

Nagasaki City assembly member Yoshiaki Fukahori gives a briefing at the disarmament exhibition at UNHQ (To his left are Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar)

©UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata



2012.03.05

Japanese traditional dancers play at a memorial concert held at UNHQ to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and to thank the international community for its support to Japan

©UN Photo/Mark Garten

Chronology of Japan and the UN

- 1943** The foreign ministers of the US, the UK and the USSR gather in Moscow and announce the Joint Four-Nation Declaration, recognizing the need for a general international organization. The Republic of China (ROC) also signs the Declaration
- 1944** The representatives of the US, the UK, the USSR and the ROC gather in Washington, D.C. and draw a draft UN Charter based on the Joint Four-Nation Declaration
- 1945** The UN Conference on International Organization opens in San Francisco (San Francisco Conference)
The UN Charter is signed by 50 allied nations on June 26 and later by Poland, officially launching the UN with a membership of 51 original member countries on October 24
- 1952** Japan's bid for accession to the UN fails due in part to a veto by the USSR
- 1956** On October 19, the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration is signed
On December 12, the UN Security Council recommends that the UN General Assembly approve Japan's accession to the UN
On December 18, the UN General Assembly unanimously approves Japan's accession, making it the 80th member
- 1958** Japan becomes a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the first time
- 1961** UN membership tops 100 countries
- 1974** Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa and other Japanese musicians give a joint performance at a UN Day concert in New York
- 1987** Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone becomes the first Japanese Prime Minister to give addresses the UN General Assembly
- 1989** The first UN Conference on Disarmament Issues is held in Kyoto
- 1992** Japan joins UN PKOs for the first time
- 1994** Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visit UNHQ
- 2000** The UN adopts the Millennium Development Goals
- 2001** The UN and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan win the Nobel Peace Prize
- 2004** Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi calls for a "New United Nations for the New Era" at the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly
- 2006** The UN Security Council unanimously adopts a sanctions resolution on the DPRK for conducting a nuclear test (Resolution 1718), with Japan taking initiative in the process
- 2007** Japanese violinist Midori Goto is appointed UN Messenger of Peace
- 2011** South Sudan becomes the 193rd Member State
- 2013** The Japan-led resolution on nuclear disarmament is adopted for the 20th year in a row
- 2015** **The UN commemorates the 70th anniversary of its foundation**
- 2016** **Japan commemorates the 60th anniversary of its accession to the UN**



San Francisco Conference (April 25 to June 26, 1954)



Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu observes the hoisting of the Japanese national flag to mark Japan's accession to the UN



Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa, cellist Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, and violinist Nobuko Imai



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress are briefed at UNHQ



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe gives addresses the 69th Session of the General Assembly of the UN



Japan & the United Nations