

Japan's Efforts for Reform of the UN



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

United Nations Reform

Renewed, and More Effective UN

The international community is facing a number of new challenges in the 21st century, such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, infectious diseases, that were not anticipated upon the foundation of the United Nations 60 years ago.

The Outcome Document adopted at the United Nations World Summit in September 2005 encompasses a broad range of issues spanning development, peace, human rights, strengthening of the UN itself and more.

Japan, since its accession to the UN, has made constant and significant contributions to the organization's activities, including the heavy financial commitment to be met under the scale of assessment. Japan has also been an active contributor on the human resources fronts, such as its participation in peacekeeping operations (PKO), while Japan, as a nation dedicated to peace, has likewise energetically contributed in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation in a push to strengthen the role of the UN on these fronts as well. Japan is determined to cooperate in implementation of the Outcome Document. The goal of this cooperation, meanwhile, is to support further strengthening in UN activities, helping the organization to more accurately reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century, while raising the effectiveness of its responses to poverty and other tough challenges that lie ahead.



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※The numbers in parentheses refer to paragraph numbers in the Outcome Document.

Institutional Reform

“We support early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations” (153)

“we need an efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat”(161)

“enhance the effective management of the United Nations” (163)

“We support stronger system-wide coherence” (169)

Development

“We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals” (17)

“We reaffirm our commitment to the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”(20)

“We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015” (68)

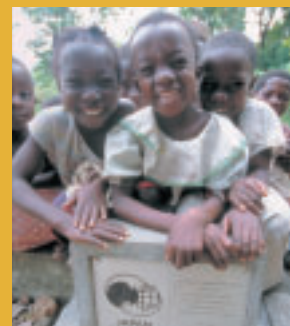
Key issues that Japan identifies as priorities in the Outcome Document



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Security

“We stress the need to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism” (83)

“We urge the international community, including the United Nations, to assist States in building national and regional capacity to combat terrorism” (88)

“We decided to establish a Peacebuilding Commission”(97)

※ no reference on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit

Human Rights

“we resolve to create a Human Rights Council” (157)

“we commit ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly” (143)

“Strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response, - in part by improving the Central Emergency Revolving Fund”(169)



1. Institutional Reform

1 Security Council

Japan believes that the composition of the Security Council should more accurately reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century, and that Security Council reform holds the key to bringing restructuring to the United Nations itself. Based on this belief, Japan will further enhance its efforts to materialize it.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1695 on the Launch of Missiles by DPRK was adopted on 15 July 2006.



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2 Management

Japan sees an urgent need for prompt Secretariat and management reforms to empower the UN to function with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, and is taking an active stance in promoting, in particular, mandate reviews.

Japan actively participates in General Assembly consideration on Management Reform

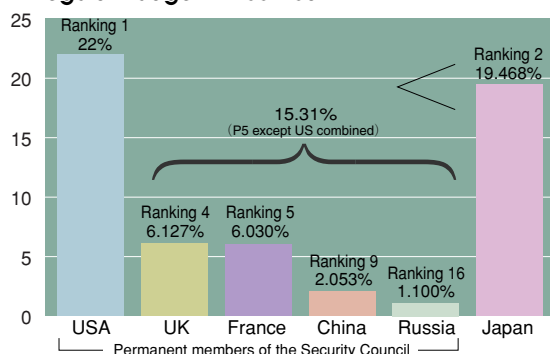


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3 Equitable and Fair Scale of Assessments

Japan deems that UN scale of assessments should be made more equitable and fair, based on considerations for the economic conditions of Member States and their status and responsibilities in the UN. Toward this end, Japan has submitted a proposal to introduce minimum assessment for permanent members of the Security Council of either 3 or 5 percent, in view of their special status and responsibilities.

■ UN Scale of Assessments for the Regular Budget in 2004-06



4 System-wide Coherence

In February 2006 the Secretary-General established a High-Level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence in the Area of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Environment. One of its 15 eminent members is Keizo Takemi, a member of the House of Councillors of Japan. Contributing to the discussion in this panel, Japan is advocating community-based approach to enhance the effectiveness of development assistance.

Keizo Takemi (in the middle) visits public health department (Jakarta, Indonesia)



Japan's Approaches to United Nations Reform

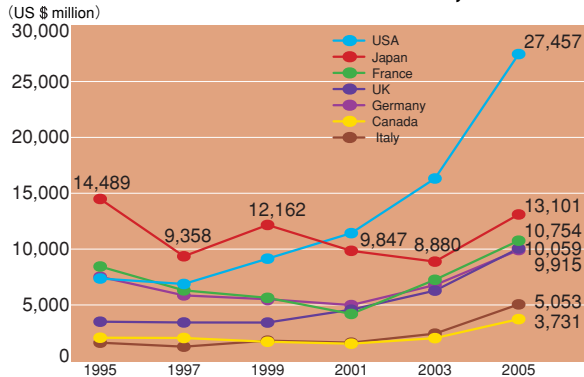
2. Development



1 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In its proactive approach to the development issues of the world, the attainment of the MDGs is an important pillar of Japan's aid policy. Over the years to come, based on the concept of "human security", Japan will continue to emphasize poverty reduction through economic growth and basic social services that directly benefit poor regions. Japan will continue to steadily implement its commitments, such as increasing its ODA volume by US \$10 billion in aggregate over the five-year period until 2009, thereby continue to actively address development challenges including the attainment of the MDGs.

■ Trends in the ODA disbursements of major countries (US \$ million)



2 Assistance for Africa

Japan has been actively supporting the development of Africa, through the TICAD(Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the MDGs in Africa, where "special needs" for its development exist. Since 2005, "the Year of Africa," Japan has enhanced its effort to support to Africa. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced in 2005 that Japan would "double its ODA to Africa in the three years to come," and during his visit to Africa in 2006, he proposed the establishment of a prize in memory of Hideyo Noguchi(the "Hideo Noguchi Prize for Africa"), a Japanese doctor who devoted his life to help yellow fever patients in Africa, to award persons who have made outstanding achievements in the fight against infectious diseases in Africa.

Prime Minister Koizumi at Water Technology Centre(Ethiopia)



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3 Health

Succeeding to the "Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative", the "Health and Development" initiative, announced in June 2005, will advance Japan's contributions to achieving health-related MDGs. Taking this occasion, Japan announced comprehensive support at a targeted scale of \$5 billion over a five-year period. Furthermore, Japan will increase its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and will provide \$500 million in the coming years. So far, \$130 million has been already disbursed as of March 2006.

Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team(Indonesia)



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4 Disaster Reduction

Based on the "Initiative for Disaster Reduction through ODA" which was announced at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Hyogo Prefecture in January 2005, Japan is facilitating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, combining bilateral cooperation and assistance through the UN. In responding to the Major Earthquake off the Coast of Sumatra and Tsunami in the Indian Ocean and other massive-scale natural disasters, Japan is providing emergency humanitarian assistance, as well as support for reconstruction in a way that will effectively prepare for future disasters.

Emergency assistance for the major earthquake off the Coast of Sumatra (Thailand)



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3. Security

1 Peacebuilding Commission

There is a pressing need for the international community to break out of the existing pattern in which approximately half of the disputes that are brought to tentative conclusion flare up again within five years, and instead forge the path to sustainable peace through steady transition from ceasefire to reconciliation, justice, nation building and reconstruction. The function of the Peacebuilding Commission is to establish strategies and provide counsel in this important direction.

Japan, a country experienced in supporting a diverse range of peacebuilding projects, will play a constructive role as a member of this Commission, making full use of its expertise and resources. It will donate \$20 million to the newly established Peacebuilding Fund and continue to support various programs in the area of peacebuilding.

East Timor facing difficulties



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2 Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

As the only country to have experienced devastation from atomic bombings, Japan makes its utmost efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with the aim of realizing a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons as soon as possible. As one of its efforts, Japan has submitted to the UN General Assembly draft resolutions which identify practical and incremental steps leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In 2005, Japan submitted a resolution titled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons". The resolution was adopted with the support of 168 countries, the largest support since 1994 when Japan began submitting this resolution to the UNGA.

The Conference on Disarmament



3 Counter Terrorism Measures

The UN takes firm leadership in enhancing the international legal framework, such as the sanctions against international terrorist organizations, including Taliban and Al Qaeda, and the negotiation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The body is also closely involved in efforts to improve capacity to counter terrorism of individual countries. Japan welcomes the report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "Uniting against Terrorism: Recommendations for a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" in May 2006.

Japan is actively participating in both the measures taken by the UN and the efforts structured to strengthen those approaches through cooperation with United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by holding seminars on the Promotion of Accession to the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols, and giving assistance for counter-terrorism capacity building.

MSDF Fleet Support ship "Towada" (right)



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4. Human Rights



1 Human Rights Council

Japan played an active role in the process of negotiating the establishment of the Human Rights Council, and made its great efforts to achieve the early launch of this new body. Japan was elected as a member of this Council in May 2006, and will contribute actively to the Council's discussions and play a constructive and meaningful role in the protection and promotion of human rights around the world.

the First High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council



2 Human Security

In order to promote and practice the notion of "human security," which aims at protection and empowerment of each individual. Japan has implemented a large number of projects around the world supported by the "UN Trust Fund for Human Security" funded by Japan.

Farmers shifting from growing poppy to other produce(Myanmar)



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3 Restructuring of Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism

Working through UN humanitarian-related agencies, Japan has promoted emergency humanitarian assistance for the human crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan, the Major Earthquake off the Coast of Sumatra and Tsunami in the Indian Ocean and other large-scale disasters. At the same time, Japan favors regular reviews of the humanitarian assistance system of the UN, followed by improvements of this system in a positive and meaningful direction. This refers particularly to heightened timeliness and predictability of humanitarian assistance funds, including improvements in the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, thereby enabling UN agencies to better carry out prompt and efficient assistance at times of dire need and emergency. True to this stand, Japan has been actively involved in such revisions up to now.

Food Assistance through WFP (Indonesia)



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