

Japan's View on the interrelation between armed violence and development

<Executive Summary>

Japan recognizes crucial relationship between armed violence and development. Therefore, Japan supports an "Armed Violence and Development" initiative through adoption of the "Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development" in 2006, and the "Asia Pacific Declaration on Armed Violence and Development" and the "Summit Statement of Review Summit on Armed Violence and Development" in 2008.

Japan acknowledges the need for a coherent and integrated approach to the reduction and prevention of armed violence, with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development, as the UNGA resolution 63/23 "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence" prescribes.

There are vicious circles between armed violence and underdevelopment. Japan has taken specific measures to halt the circles in conflict-ravaged countries/areas such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Kosovo, Timor-Leste, Palestinian Territories, Nepal and others by providing political support and development assistance in a coherent manner. In order to escape from such vicious circles, human security, which is based on "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want," is indeed valuable.

<Examples of Japan's Action>

Iraq

To date, Japan has conducted the reconstruction assistance of Iraq by combining the human contribution of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and development assistance as an "inseparable pair." Regarding assistance by the SDF, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force engaged in humanitarian reconstruction assistance including the reconstruction and development of public medical, water provision, and school facilities centered in Samawah. Transport assistance for personnel and goods from the UN and allied forces by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force was provided.

To assist the country through development assistance, Japan pledged at the Madrid Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq held in October 2003 to provide US\$1.5 billion in grant aid for immediate needs, placing focus on rebuilding the foundations of the Iraqi people's livelihood in areas such as power generation, education, water and sanitation, health care, employment, as well as improvement of security. To assist the medium-term reconstruction, Japan pledged to provide up to US\$3.5 billion primarily through yen loans, focusing on infrastructure development in fields such as electricity and transportation. So far, \$1.7 billion of grant aid has already been disbursed. Regarding Japanese ODA loans, the Exchange of Notes for 12 Japanese ODA loan projects (up to \$2.43 billion) have been signed.

In February 2007, amongst the severe circumstances in Iraq, including the intensifying dispute between religious and ethnic groups, it was also decided to newly provide around US\$100 million in grant aid for projects in the sectors of basic human needs, safety, and human resource development in order to assist Iraqi Government, which is currently making nation building efforts. In November 2007, Japan decided to extend a grant aid totaling approximately \$5.18 million. In February 2008, Japan decided to extend a grant aid of about \$16.35 million to the Project for Establishment of a Maternity and Children's Hospital in Fallujah. Such assistance supports not only economic and social reconstruction but also the political process in Iraq.

Details of Japan's Assistance for Iraq:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/iraq/issue2003/assistance/assist0610.pdf

Afghanistan

To prevent Afghanistan from stepping back to a hot bed of terrorism, Japan has been providing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance totaling approximately \$1.78 billion so far along with its contribution to the security of the country. Japan's assistance to Afghanistan is composed of three pillars: the political processes and governance, improvement of security, and reconstruction.

Support for the political process and governance is essential to restoring order and rule of law in the country. Japan's assistance in this field includes support for the administrative expenses of the interim government and support for the election monitoring of the 2005 presidential election and the subsequent parliamentary election.

In order to improve security, Japan has been providing assistance for the effort by the Afghan Government including the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-soldiers (DDR), the disbandment of illegal armed groups (DIAG), landmine removal border control and police support. DDR (completed in June 2006) and DIAG, for which Japan has been the leading country, have succeeded in bringing approximately 250,000 weapons under the control of the Afghan Government, significantly contributing to reduction of armed conflicts.

Addressing humanitarian problems and improving standard of living is indispensable for stabilizing Afghanistan and thereby reducing violence in the country. Japan has been providing assistance in such various fields as infrastructure, health, education, refugees, agriculture, and so on.

Details of Japan's Assistance for Afghanistan:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/afghanistan/assist0901.html