

**Statement by Mr. Kiya Masahiko,
Ambassador for TICAD,
Deputy Director-General, African Affairs Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
on the occasion of the High-Level Revitalization Forum
in Addis Ababa on 18 December 2017**

It is a great honour for me to be given an opportunity, thanks to the Chairperson, to make a statement on behalf of the Government of Japan, a member of IPF, at this important Forum, as I came from Tokyo. I would like to express my great appreciation for the efforts by the IGAD, including its Special Envoy, under the Chairpersonship of Ethiopia together with other member states, to make this Forum possible. I am encouraged by the participation of so many South Sudanese stakeholders, who gathered here to agree on the way forward to achieve peace. Full support from the AU, the UN, and other partner countries including Japan, is also signified by the presence of their senior representatives.

Sustainable peace can only be achieved by ownership, commitment and concrete actions on the ground by South Sudanese themselves, combined with cooperation and support from the international community.

Japan would like to express its strongest hope that all parties to the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) will seize this precious opportunity to iron out their differences to work together to bring about peace for the welfare of the entire population of South Sudan. Peace is of paramount importance for South Sudan, and the parties to the HLRF have the collective responsibility to achieve this.

Given that one out of four citizens is displaced in South Sudan, we cannot afford to wait any longer. At this Forum, an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire needs to be agreed upon. All the parties also need to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout the country. Such concrete, visible and tangible progress must take place at this Forum to pave the way for further implementation of the Agreement to bring about long-lasting peace.

The Government of Japan is committed to supporting peace and stability in South Sudan. Our Self-Defense Force's engineering unit was deployed as part of UNMISS for more than five years until May this year. Our contribution includes supporting CTSAMM's monitoring activities, helping the efforts to make the National Dialogue as inclusive and effective as possible so that it would complement the efforts in HLRF, developing human resources, and providing assistance to address both humanitarian and development needs. We will continue to help South Sudan so that it can stand on its own towards the future.

The international community is united in supporting this Forum. Still, peace can only be achieved by South Sudanese themselves. We wish all the present and future leaders of South Sudan to be united in solidarity at this critical juncture to deliver the results.

Thank you for your attention.

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