

# The 60th Anniversary of Japan's Accession to the United Nations



Prime Minister Abe gives a general debate address at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (September 29, 2015). ©UN Photo/Kim Haughton

The United Nations was founded in 1945, just after World War II, under the pledge to prevent the recurrence of war. Japan acceded to the UN 11 years later, in 1956, and has since then continued contributing internationally in various fields.

Although the Cold War structure has been dissolved, the international community now faces new challenges to deal with, such as the frequent occurrence of regional and ethnic conflicts, poverty, sustainable development, climate change, and human rights issues. The international community needs to tackle these

issues by making the best possible use of the UN with its universal character, expertise, and legitimacy.

For about 30 years, Japan has ranked as the second-largest contributor to the regular budget of the UN, after the United States. Japan's contributions are not limited to financial aspects. It has played a leading role in various UN fora and also made intellectual and personnel contributions.

The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan's accession to the UN. Taking this opportunity, Japan will contribute even more actively in various fields centering on the UN's three pillars of peace and security, human rights, and development, in close cooperation with other countries involved.

In January 2016, Japan was elected for the 11th time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years. No other member state has served as many terms in this capacity. In the UNSC, Japan is actively contributing to addressing a wide range of issues concerning international peace and security, including peacebuilding in Africa, on which Japan organized an open debate as president of the UNSC in July.

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) was held in Nairobi on August 27 and 28, 2016, led by Japan and co-organized by the UN, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and the African Union Commission, and taking its outcomes into consideration, Japan intends to further support Africa's growth and development.



Hisanaga Shimazu, Japan's consul general in New York, submits Japan's application to the UN (June 23, 1952). ©UN Photo/Marvin Bolotsky



Japanese representatives to the UN are shown to their seats after Japan is admitted to the UN (December 18, 1956). ©UN Photo/AF

Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu observes the hoisting of the Japanese national flag to mark Japan's accession to the UN (December 19, 1956). ©UN Photo

## Japan's Contributions to the UN

Field	Examples of Japan's Contributions	
United Nations Security Council	Elected for its 11th term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Plays a leading role in adopting resolutions in response to global and regional security issues including nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches by North Korea.	
Conflict resolution and peacebuilding	Participation in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Haiti, South Sudan, and elsewhere.	
Disarmament and non-proliferation	As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan submits to the UN General Assembly a draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which has been adopted every year since 1994, aimed at calling for a united action toward a world free of nuclear weapons. Also, Japan has taken a leading role in global discussions on disarmament and non-proliferation, including in the field of conventional weapons.	
Security Council reform	Formed the G4 with Brazil, Germany, and India to work toward realization of a more legitimate, representative, and effective Security Council.	
Responding to issues of global scale	Development	Placing emphasis on the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by the target year of 2015, including the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, contributed actively to achievement of the MDGs, such as through effective use of official development assistance (ODA), both bilaterally and through international organizations. Contributes to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) domestically and internationally.
	Human security	Supports the establishment and operation of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, and cooperates with grant assistance for grass-roots human security projects.
	Humanitarian assistance	Implements humanitarian assistance for refugees, internally displaced persons, and people affected by disasters.
	Disaster relief	Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams, including Self-Defense Force units.
	Disaster risk reduction	Promotes mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) that reflects the perspective of DRR in all stages of development.
	Climate change	Announced contribution policies; devoted all-out efforts toward the adoption of the Paris Agreement.
Protection and promotion of human rights	Takes initiatives toward international human rights law including submission of the draft of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the draft of the Resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members, and the draft of the Resolution on Human Rights in Cambodia.	
Administrative and budgetary reforms	Facilitated improving efficiency of the budget as a major financial contributor through consultations in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly.	



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1. Marcella Temple Seminario, the wife of UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, dressed in a kimono, together with the Japanese Kimono Cultural Mission members visiting the UN to introduce Japanese kimono culture (April 4, 1982). ©UN Photo/Milton Grant 2. Nagasaki City Council member Yoshiaki Fukahori (gesturing) explains an exhibit to UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar at the disarmament exhibition (far left: UN Under-Secretary-General for Public Information Yasushi Akashi and Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe) (September 28, 1983). ©UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata 3. Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida presides over the open debate of the UN Security Council on "Peacebuilding in Africa" (July 28, 2016). ©UN Photo/JC McIlwaine