

Statement as delivered by Japan  
at the Seventh Ministerial Plenary of  
the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)  
21 September 2016

Your Excellency Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco,

Your Excellency Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

It is my great honor and privilege to be able to talk to you today. I would like to thank Minister Mezouar and Minister Koenders for hosting this Plenary, and also thank the GCTF Administrative Unit for their hard work in putting today's meeting together.

**【Recent trends of terrorism】**

While there have been some developments in our fight against ISIL in the Middle East, we also witnessed an important and sobering trend in terrorism and violent extremism over the last year: the proliferation of terrorist attacks and violent extremism to regions outside of the Middle East and Africa. Europe was struck by a number of large-scale attacks including those perpetrated by returned foreign terrorist fighters or lone-wolf terrorists. Our region, Asia, witnessed deadly attacks as well. In January, a group of terrorists conducted an attack in central Jakarta; an assault on a restaurant in Dhaka in July claimed the lives of seven Japanese citizens, who were working selflessly for the development of Bangladesh and for its people.

**【G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism】**

Facing this grim reality, Japan has accelerated its efforts to eradicate terrorism and its root causes from the face of this planet. The most important outcome of our effort is the G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, which was developed in May under Japan's leadership as the President of the G7. This Action Plan outlines priority areas in improving the overall capacity of the international community to counter terrorism and violent extremism, and we are seeking to further step up our work based on this Action Plan.

**【Japan's efforts】**

An example of issues that are highlighted in the Action Plan is border security. Japanese companies can offer valuable technology in this field. One firm offers a state-of-the-art biometric authentication system that can be immensely impactful in securing safety at airports and populated areas; another company manufactures a portable device that can instantly detect explosives and drugs. We are willing to partner with other countries in providing these world-leading technologies to counter terrorism.

Cross-cultural dialogue is another important element in addressing the issue of violent extremism. In this context, it is worth noting that a 12-year-long Japan-Indonesia Teacher Exchange program is highly valued by Indonesian experts for its positive impact in promoting moderate Islam. We will expand such a program to other countries in the future.

We are also actively engaged in empowering civil society and local communities in countering and preventing violent extremism. This year, Japan provided 1.5 million USD to GCERF to support its role in countering violent extremism with its grass-roots approach. We are seeking to further strengthen our efforts in this work strand in Southeast Asia.

Lastly, outside of work that is directly focused on terrorism and violent extremism, we will continue to be engaged in providing economic and social stability assistance to lay the grounds for societies resilient to radicalization.

**【GCTF】**

The GCTF has played a central role in filling crucial gaps in countering terrorism and violent extremism. We would like to congratulate the GCTF on its successful development of the Toolkit for the Initiative to Address the Life Cycle of Radicalization to Violence. We hope this user-friendly toolkit will contribute to the further promotion of our efforts in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

**【Conclusion】**

As a responsible member of the GCTF, Japan will continue to take active steps in counter-terrorism and counter-violent extremism.

Thank you very much for your attention.