

## **Position Paper: Improving the Effectiveness of Peace Keeping Missions**

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Respected Delegates and Chair,

Konnichiwa. It is my privilege to present the following position paper for your informed consideration, written from the point of view of my country – Japan.

### **Topic Background:**

It took Japan nearly 33 years after getting inducted into the United Nations to make our first telling contribution in a UN Peace Keeping Mission in 1989. That peace keeping mission to Namibia (Africa) to ensure free and fair elections, opened the gate to 7 more missions across the world as well as material contributions to refugee needs. As Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations since 2005, Japan takes its role in increasing effectiveness of peace keeping missions very judiciously and with full intent to lessen pain and suffering in the world. We view our long term mission to make countries around the world a lot more self-reliant in providing relief to its people.

This position papers strives to present a future ready format for peace keeping missions to work to the best of their ability and make them as short as possible. This means we will have to start earlier than the time a peace keeping mission even becomes necessary and end with permanent solutions to ensure the country is ready with infrastructure and know-how to combat future challenges.

### **Past International Actions:**

UN mandated peace keeping missions have evolved over time and made a lasting impact on billions of lives till now. Japan has an illustrious history of contributions made to peace keeping missions with more than 5519 personnel across 8 separate instances. These have been mainly electoral led (Africa), but also includes distribution and air lifts for relief material in Eastern Europe. The time has come for Japan to make a strong foray into making peace keeping missions more effective.

### **Country Policy – Japan:**

Japan admittedly deals with a conflict in the continuity of its peace keeping missions and its national constitution. The 5 principles that make our participation in any peace keeping mission legal and permissible are generally in conflict with real world situations. The true test of a peace keeping mission can also begin with getting the two nations involved to agree to a cease fire. Pressing international issues like the Palestine and Israel conflict go through cycles of conflict (like we saw earlier in 2021). First and foremost, this policy needs to be reworked and efforts are ongoing. By involving the Japanese Self Defence Forces (SDF), we will be able to achieve more. Here are some of the policy/revamp or development pointers for consideration in this paper, presented humbly for your consideration.

- Create regional blocs – enlist countries in close geographic proximity with each other to form smaller cooperation groups to keep talks and relationships alive. This will aid smooth talks to begin promptly if the need ever arises.
- Create an incentive structure to encourage more countries to keep a trained force active to contribute to peace keeping missions. The contribution of each nation can be according to their areas of specialization.

- Widen the horizon of peace keeping missions and what they need to do. Effectively, this point means to redefine what a peace keeping mission is. We would like to propose that peace keeping missions need not only have a role to play in conflict areas across the world.

### **Possible Solutions:**

We present some solutions to the above-mentioned policy points for your kind consideration.

1. Creation of regional blocs serves two purposes. Firstly, keep neighbouring countries engaged in meaningful dialogue to lessen tensions. Secondly, geographic proximity often leads to better understanding of the neighbour's socio economic fabric – religion, politics, language, food and culture. This allows for more sensitive peace keeping efforts when required.
2. To widen the scope of what a peace keeping mission achieves, we need to look beyond just aid material, relief and temporary living camps. We all know that refugee camps can be linked to disease, violence and a tendency to become permanent living for the refugees even after the conflict ends. The same applies to important infrastructure like schools and hospitals. By engaging with experts like Shigeru Ban, we can come up with more permanent solutions to refugee camps and living conditions. We propose a vaccination peace keeping task force to combat Covid-19 in poorer countries.
3. We also need experts from various countries (e.g., Nordic nations for education experts and Cuba for healthcare) to volunteer know how, skills and special envoys to our peace keeping missions. By bringing in these experts, we can go beyond just the basics like food, water and shelter for people affected by conflict.

Lastly, we need tactical allies of the UN who play an important role in geo-politics like the US, China and Russia to take the UN Peace Keeping Missions more seriously to help us intervene at the right time and right intent.



**THANK YOU**

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