

POSITION PAPER

SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (SPECPOL)

Agenda: The Invisible War: Shadows of Proxy Armies – Dismantling State Sponsored Terrorism, Narco-Crypto Financing, and Intelligence Operations Fueling Middle East Chaos.

Portfolio

Japan

Background of the Agenda

The Middle East continues to face instability driven not only by conventional conflicts but also by proxy groups, terrorism, illicit financial networks, narcotics trafficking and intelligence operations. These mechanisms allow conflicts to continue indirectly, making accountability more difficult and creating consequences beyond the region. The increasing use of digital financial systems has further complicated efforts to trace and disrupt illicit funding. Japan considers international cooperation, diplomatic engagement and preventive action essential to addressing these interconnected threats.

Position of Japan

Japan supports a diplomatic and cooperative approach towards instability in the Middle East. Japan believes that military escalation cannot provide a sustainable solution and that dialogue, negotiations and mediation should be prioritised wherever possible. Japan seeks to work with regional countries, the United Nations and international partners towards de-escalation and long-term regional stability. Japan strongly supports nuclear non-proliferation and considers transparency, verification and international cooperation essential to global security. Japan also opposes terrorism and its financing and supports international efforts to prevent terrorist and criminal networks from accessing financial resources. Humanitarian stability, energy security and safe international trade routes are also important to Japan's approach to regional peace.

Actions Taken So Far

Japan has maintained active diplomatic engagement in the region. On 15 June 2026, Japan welcomed the United States–Iran understanding on cessation of hostilities and highlighted its own diplomatic efforts towards de-escalation. On 18 June, Japan again supported continued negotiations and a peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue in coordination with the IAEA. On 28 July, Japan continued direct engagement with Iran and called for de-escalation and continued dialogue. Japan has also engaged Saudi Arabia and other regional partners on stability and safe navigation. These actions demonstrate Japan's preference for sustained diplomacy rather than escalation.

Humanitarian Assistance

On 26 June 2026, Japan announced an emergency grant of USD 15 million for Iran, Lebanon and Palestine for health, medical care and food assistance through international organisations and humanitarian partners. Japan has also supported humanitarian action concerning Gaza, including facilitating the transfer of an injured Palestinian from Egypt to Japan for treatment in cooperation with Egypt and the WHO in March 2025.

Solutions and Recommendations

Japan recommends strengthening international trust through transparency, verification and consistent cooperation. States should maintain regular diplomatic channels through which concerns can be raised and verified before mistrust develops into confrontation. Japan also supports stronger cooperation among Financial Intelligence Units, law-enforcement agencies, customs authorities and international organisations to identify suspicious transactions, narcotics proceeds and cross-border terrorist financing. FATF standards should continue to evolve with virtual-asset risks. Japan further supports responsible intelligence-sharing based on verified information and safeguards, and proposes regional early-warning and de-escalation mechanisms so that serious security or financial developments can trigger diplomatic consultation before wider conflict.

Conclusion

Japan believes that the invisible nature of modern conflict makes international cooperation more important than ever. Proxy warfare, terrorism financing, illicit financial networks and intelligence operations cannot be effectively addressed by individual states acting alone. Japan therefore supports diplomacy, cooperation, transparency, financial accountability and prevention. Restoring trust between states must be part of addressing the deeper causes of instability. Japan remains committed to working with regional and international partners towards a Middle East where disputes are addressed through dialogue and the mechanisms that sustain conflict are progressively dismantled.

References

Japan MFA — Japan-Iran Relations: https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/iran/index.html

Japan MFA — Japan's Position on Peace in the Middle East: https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/stance.html

Japan MFA — Emergency Grant, 26 June 2026: https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_02464.html

Japan MFA — Japan-Iran Foreign Ministers' Telephone Call, 28 July 2026:
https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_02546.html

FATF — Virtual Assets: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/topics/virtual-assets.html>