The MOD/SDF is proactively undertaking international peace cooperation activities working in tandem with diplomatic initiatives, including the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for resolving the fundamental causes of conflicts, terrorism and other problems.

### Frameworks for International Peace Cooperation Activities

#### 1. Framework of International Peace Cooperation Activities and the Significance of Stipulating such Activities as One of the Primary Missions of the SDF

The international peace cooperation activities undertaken by the MOD/SDF to date are as follows: (1) international peace cooperation operations such as United Nations peacekeeping operations (the so-called UN PKO); (2) international disaster relief operations to respond to large-scale natural disasters overseas; (3) activities based on the former Special Measures Act on Humanitarian Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq; and (4) activities based on the former Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Act, and the former Replenishment Support Special Measures Act. In 2007, international peace cooperation activities, which used to be regarded as supplementary activities, were upgraded to become one of the primary missions of the SDF, alongside the defense of Japan and the maintenance of public order.

To be a proactive contributor to world peace, it is important for the SDF to be fully prepared for any future operation. For this reason, all three branches of the SDF, namely the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF, designate dispatch stand-by units, and the designated units are always ready to be deployed. In September 2015, the UN launched the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) so the UN Headquarters to be able to grasp the registered items of each country more specifically in order to ensure the flexibility and readiness of international peacekeeping activities. In light of this change, Japan registered engineering units and command center staff officers in March 2016.

Meanwhile, the SDF is enhancing information-gathering abilities and protection abilities, which are required for the SDF units to carry out their missions while ensuring the safety of personnel and unit in international peace keeping activities, etc. In addition, in order to respond to various environments and prolonged missions, the SDF is improving its capabilities for transport, deployment, and information communication, as well as developing a structure of logistic and medical support for conducting smooth and continuous operations.

With regard to the education necessary for engaging...
in international peace cooperation activities, the GSDF International Peace Cooperation Activities Training Unit at Camp Komakado (Shizuoka Prefecture) provides training for GSDF personnel to be deployed to international peace cooperation activities, as well as supports their training. In addition, the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (JPC) of the Joint Staff College offers not only a basic education courses on international peace cooperation activities, but also specialized education to train personnel who can be appointed as contingent commanders of UN PKO missions and staff officers of mission headquarters. These specialized courses are conducted by using UN standard training materials and foreign instructors. Furthermore, since FY2014, the JPC has provided education involving personnel from foreign militaries and other Japanese ministries and agencies. This initiative represents the approach taken by the MOD/SDF, which emphasize the necessity of collaboration and cooperation with other related ministries and foreign countries, based on the current situation of more multi-dimensional and complicated international peace cooperation activities. The initiative aims to contribute to more effective international peace cooperation activities by enhancing the collaboration in the field of education.

### 3 Welfare and Mental Health Care of Dispatched SDF Units

SDF personnel are expected to fulfill their assigned duty under severe working conditions while being far away from their home country and their families. Therefore, it is extremely important to make necessary arrangements so that dispatched SDF personnel can effectively carry out their assigned duty while maintaining both their physical and mental health. For this reason, the MOD/SDF has implemented various measures to support families to reduce anxiety for the dispatched SDF personnel and their families.

In addition, the SDF also provides the following mental health checkups on an ongoing basis for all the personnel to be sent: (1) a pre-dispatch course to acquire necessary knowledge on stress reduction; (2) mental health assessment conducted several times during the pre-dispatch to post-dispatch period; (3) counseling on anxiety, trouble and other matters among the dispatched personnel provided by mental health personnel being dispatched; (4) dispatch of mental healthcare support teams from Japan consisting mainly of medical officers with specialized knowledge; (5) education before returning to Japan for reducing stress upon return; (6) temporary health checkups after returning to Japan.

### 2 Initiatives to Support UN Peacekeeping Operations, etc.

As a means to promote peace and stability in conflict regions around the world, UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) have expanded their missions in recent years to include such duties as the Protection of Civilians (POC), the promotion of political processes, providing assistance in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) into society of former soldiers, Security Sector Reform (SSR), the rule of law, elections, human rights, and other fields, in addition to such traditional missions as ceasefire monitoring. To date, there are 16 UN PKO missions ongoing (as of the end of May 2017).

International organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), respective governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) conduct relief and restoration activities for the victims of conflicts and large-scale disasters from a humanitarian perspective and from the viewpoint of stabilizing affected countries.

Japan has been promoting international peace cooperation activities in various regions including Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Timor-Leste, Nepal, and South Sudan for more than 20 years, and the results of these activities have been highly praised both inside and outside of Japan. From the perspective of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, and in light of the appreciation and expectations from the international community, Japan will continue to actively engage in international peace cooperation operations in a multilayered way. In this regard, to maximize the effect of Japan’s contribution to the international community, it is necessary to deliberate more deeply about how the SDF should contribute to the international community. Therefore, regarding international peace cooperation operations and other relevant missions, the SDF will continue to proactively take part in peacekeeping activities utilizing their accumulated experiences and advanced skills in fields such as engineering, as well as by expanding the dispatch of SDF personnel to further responsible positions, such as mission headquarters and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the UN. As such, the SDF places more emphasis on taking more of a leading role, and the MOD will be proactively involved in Japan’s initiatives for international contribution.
1 United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

(1) Background to the Decision to Dispatch Personnel to UNMISS

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was established following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army in January 2005.

Beginning in October 2008, Japan dispatched two GSDF officers to UNMIS headquarters as staff officers (logistics and information staff officers), but UNMIS ended its mission in July 2011 following South Sudan’s independence. Meanwhile, with the objective of consolidating peace and security as well as helping establish necessary conditions for the development of South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established. The Japanese Government was requested by the UN to cooperate with UNMISS, particularly through the dispatch of GSDF engineering units. The Cabinet approved the dispatch of two staff officers (logistics and information staff officers) to UNMISS in November 2011, and in December it decided to dispatch an SDF engineering unit, then Coordination Center, and an additional staff officer (engineering staff officer). In addition, the Cabinet also approved the dispatch of one staff officer (air operations staff officer) in October 2014.

South Sudan shares borders with six countries and is positioned in a highly important location, connecting the African continent on all four points of the compass. The peace and stability of South Sudan is not only essential for the country itself; it is also a condition leading to peace and stability in its neighboring countries, and by extension, Africa as a whole. It is thus a crucial issue that should be dealt with by the international community. The MOD/SDF has accumulated experience through past PKO, and has contributed to the peace and stability of South Sudan by providing personnel-based cooperation in infrastructure development, on which the UN places great expectations.

Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1-2-7 (Situation in Sudan and South Sudan); Fig. III-2-3-2 (South Sudan and Its Surrounding Area); Reference 65 (Background Related to South Sudan)

(2) Activities by the SDF

In January 2012, a then Coordination Center of the SDF was established for the first time in the SDF’s participation in UN PKO, both in the South Sudan capital city of Juba and in Uganda, in order for coordination of the activities conducted by the dispatched engineering unit to begin. Since the commencement of its engineering activities within UN facilities in Juba in March 2012, the dispatched engineering unit has steadily expanded its activities in order. The SDF has continued to dispatch over 300 personnel after the second unit took over in June of the same year, and carried out activities with great significance such as repairing roads and constructing facilities for displaced people while ensuring the safety of the personnel.

On November 15, 2016, the Cabinet approved the changes to the International Peace Cooperation Assignment Implementation Plan for South Sudan after the deliberations by the National Security Council (9-minister meeting). After the 11th rotation took over in December 2016, the dispatched unit was assigned the task of so-called “kaketsuke-keigo” operations, which was approved by the Legislation for Peace and Security, as well as the task to carry out joint protection of camps.

Since the 11th unit had undergone training on
“kaketsuke-keigo” and other tasks in the pre-deployment training, the unit had sufficient level of proficiency to conduct new tasks.

To enable appropriate responses to be taken in an emergency situation, four doctors (previously three) were included in the 11th rotation. At the same time, additional items were included in the personal first aid kit carried by all of the personnel, giving them the same functions as those of the U.S. Army. In this way, the medical functions of the 11th unit were further enhanced to ensure full preparedness for the mission.

The deployment of SDF engineering units marked a milestone of five years in January 2017 since the dispatch of the first engineering rotation. In all of the PKOs conducted by Japan, the unit has made a record number of achievements. The major achievements include a total of approximately 260 km of road repair and a total of approximately 500,000 m² of development. The nation-building process of South Sudan is entering into a new phase due to the efforts made by the international community. Specifically, while in 2016 the UN decided on the establishment of a new PKO unit with the duty to improve security in the capital city of Juba and its early deployment was a pending issue, the deployment of the unit is being commenced and the initiatives to realize stability in South Sudan are making gradual progress. Additionally, to address the major issue of promoting domestic ethnic reconciliation in South Sudan, the Government of South Sudan decided in 2016 to conduct a national dialogue and announced its commencement, which is seen as a progress in political process towards domestic stability.

Meanwhile, the unit’s activities have made the largest achievements among the PKOs conducted by Japan.

Therefore, Japan considered that it could move on to a new phase regarding engineering activities in the capital city of Juba that the SDF was in charge of. Considering the above-mentioned issues in a comprehensive manner, on March 10, 2017, the Government of Japan came to the conclusion that the SDF engineering unit would withdraw from Juba around the end of May, and Minister of Defense Inada issued an assignment termination order on March 24, 2017. SDF personnel engaged in withdrawal work, then sequentially withdrew from South Sudan by the end of May 2017, and terminated the operations by the engineering unit in UNMISS.

In response to a request from the UN to transfer items possessed by the dispatched engineering unit such as heavy machinery, vehicles, and residence-related containers, Japan transferred these items to UNMISS with no charge, intending to make Japan’s cooperation with UNMISS more effective. Prior to this transfer of items, the MOD, responding to a request from UNMISS, provided training on the operation and maintenance of heavy machinery to UNMISS personnel, so that UNMISS would be able to conduct engineering activities in a smooth manner using these heavy machinery and other equipment even after the withdrawal of the Japanese unit.

These dedicated activities by the dispatched engineering unit were highly appreciated and valued by the UN and South Sudan. Japan continues to dispatch SDF personnel to the UNMISS Headquarters and contributes to the activities of UNMISS as its member.
Activities Conducted by the Dispatched Unit in South Sudan

Captain (GSDF) Ryohei Tsuchiya, Operation/Training Officer, 3rd Section, Unit Headquarters, Dispatched Engineering Unit in South Sudan (11th rotation)

I was a member of the dispatched engineering unit in South Sudan and was in charge of the operation and training of the unit. This was my first overseas mission, and I found it very fulfilling to engage in activities by representing Japan. At the same time, I performed my duties with a sense of vigilance every day in order to ensure that the unit can carry out its activities effectively while assuring its safety.

The 11th rotation to the engineering unit including me was assigned the new tasks of “kaketsuke-keigo” and joint protection of camps. Though we never did execute these new missions during our period of dispatch, we underwent a series of training both before and while we were dispatched, such that we were ready to respond at any time should an order be issued.

In March 2017, it was announced that the dispatched engineering unit’s activities at UNMISS were completed, and the unit was set to withdraw from South Sudan by the end of May. Our unit worked collectively to carry out engineering activities so that we can bring a successful conclusion to the activities of the engineering units over the past five years and four months. I am proud that we were able to complete all of the tasks that were given to us by UNMISS.

We withdrew and left Juba after we passed on the skills and know-how we had acquired to UNMISS officers, such as by providing training on the operation of equipment to be transferred to UNMISS. I am grateful for those who have made achievements in international missions and accumulated lessons learned, as well as everyone involved in the operation and our families for supporting us so that we can focus on our mission. It is my hope that initiatives will continue to be taken for the realization of peace and stability in South Sudan.

Activities of Staff Officers at the UNMISS Headquarters

Lieutenant Colonel Nobuhiro Narusawa, Information Staff Officer, UNMISS

I have been working in South Sudan’s capital city of Juba since June 2016 as the eighth rotation of staff officers (information staff officer) from Japan to UNMISS headquarters. I work at the Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC). This is an organization composed of civilian, police, and military personnel. At the department with which I am affiliated, my main duties include building a database on various information collected by UNMISS, and preparing statistical materials with data on the security situation throughout South Sudan and the number of internally displaced people (IDPs). These duties are carried out with Majors from the Indian Army and the Australian Army as well as a Bangladeshi civilian officer.

As officers working here have different nationalities and various backgrounds, the contents of and the ways of coordinating intelligence work are not the same as in Japan, and every time I find a lot of fresh inspirations.

In addition to myself, there are three other SDF personnel at UNMISS headquarters working in South Sudan: a logistics staff officer; an engineering staff officer; and an air operations staff officer. All of us reside in the United Nations compound within the Tomping area where we are helping each other.

We, the four staff officers at the mission headquarters, appreciate the opportunity in which we have been able to engage in the UN missions and operations for international contribution through the work at UNMISS. We will remain vigilant to complete our duties even after the withdrawal of the engineering unit, and ensure that we pass on the mission to our successors.
(3) Cooperation between Japan and Australia in UNMISS

To date, the MOD/SDF has cooperated closely with the Australian Defense Forces (ADF) in the field, such as in activities to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq and UN PKO. The cooperative relationship between Japan and Australia continued in UNMISS. For example, two ADF personnel had been dispatched since August 2012, and supported coordination between the engineering unit and UNMISS. Moreover, at the request of the ADF, the MOD/SDF accepted two ADF personnel, who were dispatched to carry out UNMISS duties, to the camp of the Japanese dispatched unit from January to May 2017. During this time, support was provided based on the Japan-Australia ACSA to implement various procedures smoothly.

2 Dispatch of Ministry of Defense Personnel to the UN Secretariat

Currently two SDF personnel (one director level and one action officer level) are dispatched to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) for a two-year period to engage in policy formulation and planning for UN PKO. In addition, one civilian official is dispatched to the UN Department of Field Support (DFS) to engage in duties such as the UN Project for Africa Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC), which is one of the Triangular Partnership projects.5

3 Dispatch of Instructors to PKO Centers

To support PKO undertaken by African and other countries, the MOD/SDF has dispatched SDF personnel as instructors to PKO centers in Africa that provide education and training for UN peacekeepers to contribute to peace and stability by enhancing the capacity of the centers. Starting with the deployment to the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) in November 2008, a total of 29 SDF personnel (25 deployments and eight countries in total), including two female SDF personnel, were dispatched by June 2017. The SDF personnel provided education based on their experiences and lessons gained through SDF activities overseas, to include lectures concerning the importance of building relationships with local population in international peace cooperation activities, and the international disaster relief activities in which the SDF has engaged.

4 Support to the UN Project for Africa Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC)

Japan has so far earned unquestionable trust in the areas of facilities and transport that are essential for promoting

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5 A partnership for supporting the capability enhancement of the personnel from UN PKO troop contributing countries through cooperation among the UN, UN PKO troop contributing countries, and third countries that possess technologies and equipment.
smooth peacekeeping operations. To continue to support the swift implementation of peacekeeping operations and implement high quality activities, Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan’s active support at the PKO Summit in September 2014, and it was embodied by through the ARDEC.

In the ARDEC, the UN Department of Field Support (DFS) procures heavy equipment and carries out training for engineers using funds provided by Japan. From September to October 2015, Japan dispatched GSDF personnel as instructors to the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi (Kenya). The dispatched GSDF personnel provided training on the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment for 10 personnel participants from four countries in East Africa. Also from June to October 2016, two training sessions were conducted at the IPSTC to which GSDF personnel were dispatched (for the second training one civilian official was also dispatched for administration/coordination role) and provided training for approximately 60 participating personnel. The MOD will also actively support training to be implemented going forward.

3 International Disaster Relief Operations

In recent years, the role of advanced capabilities in military affairs has become more diverse, and opportunities for its use in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are growing. To contribute to the advancement of international cooperation, the SDF has also engaged in international disaster relief operations proactively from the viewpoint of humanitarian contributions and improvement of the global security environment.

To this end, the SDF maintains their readiness to take any necessary action based on prepared disaster relief operation plans. In consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the SDF has been proactively conducting international disaster relief operations, which fully utilize their functions and capabilities, while taking into consideration specific relief requests by the governments of affected countries and disaster situations in these countries.

The Central Readiness Force and regional units of the GSDF and other relevant GSDF units maintain their readiness to ensure that they can carry out international disaster relief operations in an independent manner anytime when needed. The Self Defense Fleet of the MSDF and Air Support Command of the ASDF also constantly maintain their readiness to transport personnel and their supplies to disaster affected areas. Furthermore, in April 2015, the MOD/SDF also improved its readiness to be able to swiftly respond to a request for search activities using P-3C patrol aircraft.

1 Outline of the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law

Since the enactment of the Law Concerning the Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief Team (Japan Disaster Relief Team Law) in 1987, Japan has engaged in international disaster relief activities in response to requests from the governments of affected countries and international organizations. In 1992, the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law was partially amended, enabling the SDF to participate in international disaster relief activities and to transport its personnel and equipment for this purpose.

2 International Disaster Relief Operations by the SDF and SDF’s Posture

Responding to specific relief requests by the governments of affected countries and the scale of disaster situations in these countries, the SDF’s capabilities in international disaster relief operations encompass (1) medical services, such as first-aid medical treatment and epidemic prevention; (2) transport of personnel and equipment by helicopter and other means; and (3) water supply activities using water-purifying devices. In addition, the SDF uses transport aircraft and ships to carry disaster relief personnel and equipment to the affected area.

Following the devastation caused by an earthquake that hit New Zealand’s South Island on November 13, 2016, the MOD received a request from the Government of New Zealand on November 15 to survey the situation of the damages. As a result of consultations with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the MOD decided on the implementation of International Disaster Relief Activities by the SDF.

From November 15 for four days, one MSDF P-1 patrol aircraft conducted flights to survey the damage situation, which was being dispatched to New Zealand to participate in a multilateral joint exercise.