Section 1 Trend in International Terrorism and Regional Conflicts

1 General Situation

In a global security environment, there is a growing risk that unrest or a security problem in a single country or region could immediately develop into a destabilizing factor that could affect the entire international community.

The conflicts occurring in recent years in various parts of the world are not necessarily of the same nature. In addition to an array of problems, which is at the root of conflicts, including ethnicity, religion, territory, and resources, the impacts of climate change and other global issues have also been suggested as causes of conflicts.\(^1\)

There are also cases where the political turmoil accompanying regime change leads to conflicts between ethnic groups, religious sects, or political factions that can become prolonged against a background of public dissatisfaction over economic and social disparities and/or high unemployment rates. The human rights violations, refugees, hunger, poverty, and other consequences of conflicts can have impacts on not only the parties of the conflicts but also a wider area. States with weak governance are also finding it difficult to tackle risks such as the explosive outbreak and spread of infectious diseases.

Furthermore, in the Middle East and Africa, there are prominent cases where power vacuums in some states with political instability and weak governance have become hotbeds of the activities of international terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and ISIL. These organizations are leveraging inadequate border controls to expand and step up their operations across national borders while securing the personnel, weapons, and drugs that serve as a source of funding. There also exists organizations that have the ability to carry out terrorist acts in places far from their bases, continuing to pose imminent security challenges to the international community.

Furthermore, in developed countries, such as the United States and European countries, there has been an increasing number of cases of young people who are inspired by the extreme ideology spread by international terrorist organizations against the backdrop of dissatisfaction over estrangement from society, discrimination, poverty, and disparities, resulting in joining the international terrorist organizations as fighters or conducting “homegrown” terrorism activities in their home countries.

Regarding Japan, during the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese nationals in Syria in early 2015, ISIL explicitly announced that Japanese nationals would be the targets of terrorist attacks. ISIL also issued a statement claiming responsibility for the murder of Japanese in Bangladesh in October of the same year, and later referred to the incident in its official

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\(^1\) The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) released by the U.S. Department of Defense in March 2014 regards climate change as one of key factors that will shape the future security environment. It claims that climate change may accelerate instability and conflict by causing water scarcity, sharp increases in food costs, and other effects.
Note: According to the United Nations (as of the end of May 2018).

### List of Peacekeeping Operations

#### Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)</td>
<td>Jul 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)</td>
<td>Apr 2013</td>
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#### Middle East

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<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)</td>
<td>May 1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)</td>
<td>Mar 1978</td>
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#### Asia

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<th>Mission</th>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)</td>
<td>Jan 1949</td>
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#### Europe/CIS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNIFCYP)</td>
<td>Mar 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)</td>
<td>Jun 1999</td>
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#### The Americas

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<th>Mission</th>
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In addition to the UN PKO framework, multinational forces and regional organizations authorized by the UN Security Council have engaged in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. In Africa, regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) undertake their activities based on UN Security Council resolutions, and their activities are sometimes handed over to UN PKOs later. The international community also offers recommendations and training assistance and supplies equipment, from a long-term perspective, prompting African nations self-help efforts to enhance local government organizations and improve the capabilities of their military and security organizations.

Concerning international counterterrorism measures, the proliferation of the threat of terrorism has gained momentum while its perpetrators are increasingly diversified, making it even more difficult to prevent terrorist attacks. For this reason, international cooperation on counterterrorism measures has become even more important. Currently, the international community as a whole is taking various steps, including military means as well as measures to cut off the funding sources for terrorist organizations and prevent the international movement of terrorists.

bULLETIN when it listed Japanese nationals as their targets. Bearing in mind the terror attack at a restaurant in Dhaka, Bangladesh in July 2016, we Japanese must face up to the threat of international terrorism as our own problem.\(^2\)

It has become increasingly important that the international community should examine the shape of tailored international frameworks and involvement measures, and seek out appropriate responses to these complicated and diverse destabilizing factors.

Amid these situations, in recent years, mandates of the UN PKO\(^3\) have come to include a wide range of areas, including not only traditional roles like the monitoring of a ceasefire or military withdrawal but also activities by civilians and police such as the monitoring of disarmament, security sector reform, the monitoring of elections and administrative activities, and humanitarian assistance (e.g., return of refugees to their homeland). This also suggest that the importance of the roles related to the protection of civilians and peace-building, in particular, has been growing.

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**2 Trends surrounding International Terrorism**

**1 Trends in ISIL-related International Terrorist Organizations**

**(1) Activities in Iraq and Syria**

The objective of ISIL as an organization is to outright reject the conventional system of national governance in the region and claim the establishment of the caliphate based on its own interpretation of Sharia law and the protection of Sunni Muslims.

ISIL gained strength in Syria from 2013 on by seizing the opportunity in Syria when clashes between the government and rebel forces occurred in 2011 and destabilized the situation there. Beginning in January 2014, they invaded northern Iraq and in June took control of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. Following this, ISIL unilaterally declared the establishment of the “Islamic State” with its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as “caliph,”\(^6\) and effectively controlled certain areas spanning Iraq and Syria through its well-developed organizational structure and the issue of its own currency.

Participating in ISIL are members from the former Iraqi regime and former Iraqi military officers and soldiers, as well as foreign fighters who migrated to Iraq and Syria in response to calls from ISIL. ISIL used social media
and other elements of cyberspace under a sophisticated public relations strategy to issue propaganda for the organization, recruit fighters and call for terrorist acts. As a result, they appear to have gained many supporters, and it has been noted that more than 40,000 foreign fighters actually travelled to Iraq and Syria.

As for obtaining weapons and ammunition, ISIL is believed to engage in looting in addition to utilizing illegal trafficking networks. In particular, when they invaded northern Iraq in the first half of 2014, they managed to pillage a variety of equipment from the Iraqi military facilities that they occupied. Furthermore, it has been noted that ISIL has also begun producing and modifying weapons. It has been pointed out that they are manufacturing IEDs from chemicals obtained through legal channels and using them in suicide bombings. It has also been confirmed that they are using tactics such as modifying small commercial drones so that they can carry hand grenades and the like and attacking enemy vehicles by dropping bombs loaded on them. Regarding the use of drones, it has been noted that ISIL attempted to expand the damage by using camera-equipped drones to skillfully guide suicide-attack vehicles. It is believed that ISIL is using these new tactics in recent fighting.

7 It has been noted regarding the IEDs that ISIL used between July 2014 and February 2016 that parts and components manufactured and/or exported by approximately 50 firms in 20 countries fell into the hands of ISIL, who used them within a year after it acquired them.
8 ISIL has published videos in which it attacks tanks and the like with explosives dropped from drones. It has been noted that the purpose is to destroy some vehicles and force them out of the frontlines through such attacks.
9 It has been noted that ISIL has been amping the effect of its attacks by using drones to find targets from the air and providing instructions to suicide bombers at the ready on the ground and instructing optimal paths for them.
10 As of August 2017, the Coalition had conducted 13,331 and 11,235 air raids in Iraq and Syria respectively.
11 The Peshmerga remained stationed in Kirkuk after recapturing it from ISIL and effectively controlled it. However, when the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) implemented a referendum on independence in September 2017, the Iraqi Government dispatched security forces and subdued the city the following month.
12 After the recapture, new problems have emerged, including confrontation between Shites and Sunnis.
13 Tartus is the only Russian naval base facing the Mediterranean Sea in Syria, reportedly having a dockyard that can provide fuel and food to and repair military ships.
14 Regarding the series of military activities by Russia, it has been noted that they have been displaying their military capabilities and to demonstrate those capabilities through operations, while others have noted that the target of the military operations is not ISIL but the opposition forces confronting the Assad administration.
mainly in southern and eastern Syria such as Palmyra and Deir Ezzor. In December 2017, Russia declared that Syria’s entire territory had been liberated from ISIL and announced that it would pull out some of its troops deployed in Syria while maintaining its bases there.

It is believed that the number of ISIL fighters and ISIL revenue have declined significantly as a result of the progress in these operations against ISIL. At the same time, it is believed that approximately 3,000 ISIL fighters remain in hiding, mainly near the Iraq-Syria border, who are conducting terrorist acts against security forces and citizens in Baghdad and Damascus, respective capitals of Iraq and Syria, and elsewhere in both countries. In other words, the threat of ISIL in Iraq and Syria has not been eliminated completely. It is important for the international community to continue to engage towards the stability of the two states in order to prevent ISIL forces from expanding again.

(3) Dispersion beyond Iraq and Syria

After ISIL declared the establishment of the “Islamic State,” multiple “provinces” have been established outside of Iraq and Syria as the “Islamic State” territories (see figure), and these “provinces” have been conducting terrorist acts in each place. On the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, an organization claiming to be the Islamic State-Sinai Province has been conducting a series of terrorist acts against the military and police as well as Christians. In Afghanistan, the Islamic State-Khorasan Province has conducted sporadic terrorist acts in its capital Kabul and elsewhere. Terrorist attacks claimed by ISIL “provinces” have also been confirmed in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere. It is believed that the threat of terrorist

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15 In a December 2017 tweet, the spokesperson for the Coalition expressed the understanding that the number of ISIL’s foreign fighters remaining in Iraq and Syria was under 3,000.
16 For example, suicide bombing and shooting attacks aimed at police vehicles occurred in September 2017 on the Sinai Peninsula, for which ISIL-Sinai Province claimed responsibility.
17 For example, three suicide bombing attacks occurred in December 2017 at a Shiite cultural facility in Kabul, for which ISIL-Khorasan Province claimed responsibility.
acts by such organizations will continue in the future.

Furthermore, organizations claiming to be ISIL in countries where no “provinces” have been established exist and have conducted terrorist attacks targeting security forces and citizens. Particularly in the Philippines, in May 2017, an Abu Sayyaf Group (ASF) faction and the Maute group pledging allegiance to ISIL occupied part of the city of Marawi on the island of Mindanao. The Philippine Government declared martial law and launched military operations, and the fighting continued for around five months. In October of the same year, the Philippine Government took control of Marawi and declared an end of the fighting. However, the search for individuals connected to the organizations supporting ISIL continues and security has yet to be firmly established. Elsewhere, there is concern that the threat posed by ISIL is permeating Southeast Asia with the existence of organizations supporting ISIL in Indonesia for one.\(^{18}\)

\(\textbf{(4) Foreign Fighters}\)

Many foreign fighters flowed into Iraq and Syria with the rise of ISIL since 2014. However, as the strength of ISIL ebbed, it is believed that the number of foreign fighters travelling to Iraq and Syria is declining.\(^{19}\)

Meanwhile, a major concern has been raised that foreign fighters acquiring combat training and combat experience in Iraq and Syria would return to their countries and conduct terrorist attacks there. It is believed that at least 5,600 foreign fighters had returned from Iraq and Syria to their home countries by October 2017.\(^{20}\)

Amid such circumstances, it has been pointed out that the terrorists who carried out the simultaneous attacks in Paris in November 2015 included ones who mingled with refugees and immigrants in entering Europe.\(^{21}\)

Like the terrorist act that occurred in Belgium in August of the same year, there is also the possibility that ISIL has made foreign fighters return to their home countries where they are ordered to conduct terrorist attacks.\(^{22}\) The international community is required to continue to take various initiatives going forward in order to prevent such terrorist acts by foreign fighters.

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\(^{18}\) In Indonesia, a series of bombing and shooting attacks occurred in Jakarta in January 2016, and an organization supporting ISIL claimed responsibility. It is also believed that Indonesians and Malaysians participated in an organization supporting ISIL in the fighting in the city of Marawi.

\(^{19}\) In an October 2017 press conference, the spokesperson for the Coalition expressed the understanding that there were virtually no foreign fighters flowing into Iraq and Syria at the time.

\(^{20}\) According to the Soufan Center, the number of foreign fighters returning to their home countries is approximately 800 in Tunisia, 760 in Saudi Arabia, 425 in the United Kingdom, approximately 300 in Germany, 271 in France, and so on.

\(^{21}\) Since the series of terror attacks in Paris, the French forces deployed 10,000 troops in France to guard domestic transportation systems, tourist spots, and the like. Although the number of troops was reduced to 7,000, they continue security activities domestically and otherwise engage in protecting the public.

\(^{22}\) The perpetrator is reported to have received military training in Syria in May 2015, then instructed by ISIL to return to Europe to conduct the terrorist act.
2 Trends in Al Qaeda-related International Terrorist Organizations

(1) Al Qaeda
With regard to Al Qaeda, which is believed to have directed the 9/11 attacks in 2001, it is believed to have been weakened as the group’s previous leader Osama Bin Laden as well as many executives were killed in U.S. operations. However, it is considered that it continues its activities as a core organization such as issuing instructions and recommendations to its affiliates in North Africa and the Middle East. In addition, its current leader Zawahiri has repeatedly issued statements calling for terrorist acts against the West. The possibility of Al Qaeda attacks has not disappeared.

(2) Al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)
Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a Sunni extremist organization based in Yemen, is mainly active in south Yemen, continuing their fight against the Yemeni security forces and the opposition insurgent group Houthis. The United States has continued air strikes using UAVs and killed many AQAP leaders. However, AQAP has taken advantage of the instability in Yemen to maintain a certain level of force there. It also spreads extreme ideology utilizing propaganda videos and magazines.

(3) Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)
Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), a Sunni extremist organization based in Algeria and also active in Mali, Tunisia, and Libya has mainly conducted terrorist attacks and kidnapping against Algerian security forces and Europeans and U.S. nationals. Although the strength of AQIM has declined due to the French-led military intervention that started in 2013, the group is still continuing its terror attacks in Algeria and Mali, while organizations under the AQIM umbrella are instigating terrorist attacks in states such as Burkina Faso and Mali.

(4) Al-Shabaab
“Al-Shabaab,” a Sunni extremist organization based in Somalia, mainly conducts terrorist acts against Somali military forces and police as well as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the peacekeeping forces stationed for the purpose of stabilizing the situation in Somalia after the civil war. In September 2017, suicide bombing and shooting attacks against Somali military bases occurred, for which Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility. The Somali authorities concluded that the car-bomb attacks in December of the same year in which more than 500 people were reportedly killed was carried out by Al-Shabaab, although no one claimed responsibility for it. Furthermore, Al-Shabaab has conducted terrorist acts in Kenya and Djibouti, posing threat not only to Somalia but also to its neighboring countries.

3 Trends of Other International Terrorist Organizations

(1) Taliban
The Taliban is an organization based in Afghanistan with the objective of establishing a state governed by Sharia law. Its forces were diminished significantly for a while by the mop-up operations launched by the United States following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States. However, with the end of the mission of the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in December 2014, the Taliban has been stepping up its offensive again and expanding the control areas within Afghanistan. It also continues suicide attacks and shootings as well as rocket attacks targeting the government and foreigners.

The Taliban held its first peace talks with the Afghan Government in July 2015. However, it has hardened its confrontational posture since then and has not shown a willingness to take part in peace talks even after a new supreme leader was appointed in May 2016.

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23 Recently, it published a statement criticizing the Trump administration in the United States for its recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and calling on Muslims to attack the interests of the United States and its allies.

24 In 2017, the U.S. Central Command announced that it conducted more than 120 air raids in Yemen in one year.

25 The January 2013 terrorist attack in Algeria resulting in victims of Japanese nationals is believed to have been executed by the “Masked Brigade,” which had broken away from AQIM. In 2015, the Brigade merged with other organizations to form “Al-Murabitoun” and returned to the AQIM fold. Furthermore, in 2017, this merged with yet other organizations to form Jama Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM; literally, protector of Islam and Muslims).

26 After occupying Kunduz in the northeast for several days in September 2015, the Taliban has been expanding its area of control, mainly in the north and south.

27 In July 2015, the death of Mullah Mohammad Omar, founder of the Taliban and its former supreme leader, was confirmed. Akhtar Mansour was elected as supreme leader but died in May 2016 in an air raid by U.S. forces using a drone. Hibatullah Akhundzada, Mansour’s deputy, succeeded him as supreme leader.
(2) Boko Haram

In Nigeria, Boko Haram, a Sunni extremist organization, has repeatedly carried out terror attacks targeting mainly citizens. It is believed that its influence is declining due to the mop-up operations that the Nigerian military is mounting together with neighboring countries. However, it continues its activities, mainly in northeast Nigeria, and a suicide bomb attack that is believed to have been conducted by Boko Haram occurred at a mosque in the northeast in January 2018.

4 The Threat of “Home-grown” Terrorism

As Al Qaeda and ISIL call for terrorism attacks around the world, “home-grown” terrorism, in which residents are inspired by the extremism espoused by these organizations and conduct terrorist attacks at home, continues to be a threat.

In recent years, “lone-wolf” terrorism, planned and committed by individuals or small groups who do not have any official relations with international terrorist organizations but have become influenced in some way, have occurred. The terrorist act in November 2017 when a truck ran through a bicycle path in New York is considered a “lone-wolf” terrorist act. ISIL and Al Qaeda have been using propaganda magazines and other means to introduce specific methods for terrorist acts to supporters who want to conduct such “lone-wolf” terrorist acts. For example, ISIL gives detailed examples of specific methods and targets for terrorist acts using knives and vehicles in its magazine Rumiyah. Al Qaeda also has used its magazine to publish how to make a bomb using material close at hand. “Lone-wolf” terrorism is also seen as a threat to the international community because it is difficult to detect signs in advance and prevent it.

More recently, terrorist acts have been confirmed that are conducted in an organized manner by fighters sent in by terrorist organizations or by local individuals or organizations under instructions from terrorist organizations. These incidents indicate that the forms of terrorist acts are becoming diversified and that the capacity of terrorist organizations to execute operations is improving, raising concern that the threat of terrorism is growing.

3 Current Situation of Regional Conflicts and the International Response (mainly in the Middle East and Africa)

1 Situation in Syria

The violent clashes in Syria since March 2011 pits four parties, the Syrian government forces, opposition forces, Islamic extremist forces, and Kurdish forces against each other. However, government forces have gained the upper hand overall, as they recaptured Aleppo, which was once a stronghold of rebel forces, in December 2016 with support from Russia.

Against this backdrop, UN Security Council Resolution 2254 adopted in December 2015 established a road map for the peace process, and peace talks have been taking place since January 2016 between the government and opposition forces under UN auspices. However, fighting did not abate on either side and there was no progress to be seen in the initiative towards peace.

Under these circumstances, peace talks sponsored by Russia, Turkey, and Iran began in Astana, Kazakhstan in January 2017. In the fourth meeting held in May of the same year, an agreement was reached on the creation of “safe zones” in four locations within Syria where fighting and air strikes would be forbidden while Russia, Turkey, and Iran would dispatch troops to Syria to monitor the ceasefire. Later, in January 2018, the Syrian National Dialogue Congress was held in Sochi, Russia, where it was agreed to establish a constitutional committee towards the enactment of a new constitution. However, the main opposition forces and Kurdish forces did not participate in the congress. It will draw attention whether talks towards the enactment of a new constitution will make progress.

In this manner, various efforts towards peace and stability are being made. However, large-scale clashes occurred in what are supposed to be “safe zones” in Idlib province in northern Syria and in Eastern Ghouta on the outskirts of the capital Damascus. Particularly in Eastern Ghouta, Syrian forces intensified their offensive with support from Russian forces, resulting in many
casualties among citizens.

Under these circumstances, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France determined that the Assad administration had used chemical weapons in eastern Ghouta and showed the determination not to allow the proliferation and use of chemical weapons, conducting missile attacks on Syrian facilities related to chemical weapons in April 2018. Russia and Iran, who support the Assad administration, are pushing back at the attack by the three states.

Furthermore, as the influence of ISIL wanes in Syria, a confrontation over the status of Kurds is emerging. The Kurds exhibited movement towards the expansion of autonomy such as the unilateral announcement in March 2016 led by Democratic Union Party (PYD), the Kurdish political party, to introduce a federative system in northern Syria, and implementation of their own local elections in September 2017 and the like. Turkey, which deems PYD to be a terrorist organization, invaded Afrin in northeastern Syria in January 2018 and announced in March of the same year that it had taken control of the city center of Afrin.

In this manner, the military clashes between the forces within Syria still do not show signs of ending, and peace talks are also stalling. Further initiatives from the international community towards the stabilization of Syria is required.

2 The Situation Surrounding Middle East Peace

Since the foundation of Israel in 1948, there have been four wars between Israel and Arab countries. The 1993 Oslo Agreement was signed between Israel and Palestine and a peace process made temporary progress but has fallen short of achieving peace. In the Palestinian territories, the moderate Fatah, which governs the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas, which effectively controls the Gaza district, are in conflict, splitting the area.

In September 2017, Hamas announced its intent to accept the administrative control of the Gaza Strip by Fatah. In October of the same year, direct consultations were held through the mediation of Egypt, in which the two parties agreed on the handover of administrative authority by December. However, subsequent negotiations encountered difficulties, while the Trump administration announced on December 6 of the same year that the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. After that, the security situation deteriorated temporarily as demonstrations and other protest activities took place day after day in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and people were injured or killed in clashes with the Israeli security forces. Tensions rose as rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli territory and as a response to that, Israel intercepted rockets fired from the Gaza Strip and conducted air strikes on the Gaza Strip. In May 2018, immediately after the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, protest activities in the Palestinian Autonomous Area were activated again, which resulted in many casualties particularly in the Gaza Strip. Future movements in the Middle East peace process including engagement by the United States and the future direction of negotiations towards the transfer of administrative authority over the Gaza Strip bears watching.

3 Situation in Yemen

In Yemen, anti-government protests occurred from February 2011 and international pressure led to a transition from then President Ali Abdullah Saleh to new President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi through election.

Meanwhile, the confrontation between the government and the opposition insurgent group Houthis, based in northern Yemen, intensified. In September 2011, the Houthis occupied the capital Sana and President Hadi evacuated to the city of Aden in the south.

Later, as the Houthis invaded the city of Aden,
President Hadi sought assistance from Arab countries. In response, in March 2015, coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia began air strikes against the Houthis.

A series of peace talks intermediated by the United Nations took place between April and August of the same year, but a final peace agreement has yet to be reached. Military operations by Saudi-led coalition forces against the Houthis and the launching ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia and other attacks by the Houthis continue. The coalition launched operations to recapture Houthi-controlled Hodeidah, Yemen’s second-largest port city, and announced that they had occupied the airport there. Meanwhile, regarding the ballistic missile attacks by the Houthis, which have mainly targeted the Saudi south, the Houthis have announced that they have launched ballistic missiles at Riyadh, the Saudi capital, since November 2017. In response, Saudi Arabia is claiming that it has intercepted the ballistic missiles launched by the Houthis. The United States and Saudi Arabia also claim that the missiles launched at Riyadh were provided by Iran.

Under these circumstances, in December 2017, former President Saleh, who had joined forces with the Houthis to fight against the Saudi-led coalition forces, extended an offer for a ceasefire and talks with the Saudi-led coalition forces. The Houthis rejected this and killed the former president. Meanwhile, inside the government-aligned forces, the Southern Transitional Council, which seeks independence for south Yemen, clashed with the Hadi administration and overran a military base and government buildings in Aden. These situations have added further confusions in Yemen.

4 Situation in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the U.S. Forces launched mop-up operations against the Taliban and other groups in November 2001. Furthermore, the security duties by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) among other efforts have reportedly been reducing the Taliban’s assault capabilities to a certain degree. However, around the time that ISAF withdrew in December 2014 after completing its mission and the NATO-led “Resolute Support Mission (RSM)” started to train, advise and assist the ANDSF as its core mission, the Taliban intensified their offensive resulting in security deterioration. Meanwhile, the ANDSF faces challenges with logistics, morale, air capabilities, and troop-commander leadership, and the Taliban is expanding its own areas of control in Afghanistan amidst these circumstances. According to a report released by the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) in October 2017, the areas controlled by or under the influence of the Afghan Government was approximately 57% of Afghan territory, the lowest since December 2015, when the survey started.

Furthermore, in addition to the Taliban, ISIL has established “Khorasan Province” in eastern Afghanistan and expanded its activities. Suicide bomb attacks and rocket attacks that the Taliban and ISIL are believed to be involved have occurred one after another around the country. When U.S. Secretary of Defense Mattis visited Afghanistan in September 2017, several rockets hit Kabul International Airport and the surrounding area, and both the Taliban and ISIL claimed responsibility. In January 2018, a suicide bomb attack occurred in the center of Kabul killing more than a hundred people with the Taliban claiming responsibility while ISIL attacked an NGO office in Jalalabad in the east in the same month. Instability continues in the security situation nationwide. In June 2018, Afghanistan and the Taliban both announced a ceasefire unilaterally. However, the Taliban abandoned the ceasefire after three days and reopened its attacks. It is unclear whether the security situation may stabilize.

The first peace talks between the Afghan Government and the Taliban were held in May 2015 but has not been resumed since after the subsequent change in the supreme
leadership. Although the Afghan Government called out to the Taliban for dialogue, the Taliban has been silent on peace talks, and there are yet to be prospects for reopening the talks.

5 Situation in Libya

In Libya, following the collapse of the Gaddafi regime in 2011, elections for a General National Congress were held in July 2012, establishing a congress consisting mainly of Islamists. In June 2014, elections for a Council of Representatives were held to establish a new congress to replace the General National Congress. However, since secularists became the majority, the confrontation between Islamic and secular groups intensified, and consequently, Libya became fragmented between east and west with two assemblies existing in parallel – the Islamic groups’ General National Congress based in the capital city of Tripoli and the secular groups’ Council of Representatives based in Tobruk in eastern Libya. In December 2015, the UN mediated a political agreement for Libya and a national consensus government was established in March 2016. However, as Islamic groups took control of the new government, secular groups turned their back and refused to join the national consensus government. As a result, Libya remains divided between the East and the West. In addition, militias supporting the east and west respectively continue sporadic military clashes. Under these circumstances, there are no prospects for establishing domestic governance and security yet.

In addition, ISIL, Al Qaeda, and other terrorist organizations are gaining ground in these unstable circumstances and clashing with militias around the country. ISIL in particular is believed to be divided into small groups and in hiding, mainly in the desert regions in southern Libya. In October 2017, car bomb attacks targeting the militias occurred for which ISIL claimed responsibility. Further terrorist acts will likely occur in the future.

6 Situation in Egypt

In Egypt, where then-President Mubarak, who had been serving as the president for approximately three decades, resigned in 2011, and then-President Mursi, who had been a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, was inaugurated. However, in June 2013, large-scale protests of the people occurred amidst the poor economic situation and the deterioration of security. The military intervened in response and dismissed the president. In May 2014, former Defense Minister Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi was inaugurated as president. In the three years since its inauguration, the el-Sisi administration undertook economic reforms including a shift to a floating exchange rate system and the abolition of subsidies. However, enhancing domestic security measures is still a major challenge. In November 2017, an armed group assaulted a mosque in the northern Sinai Peninsula leaving more than 300 people dead. Countermeasures against terrorism are urgently required.36

President el-Sisi was reelected in presidential election held in March 2018 with approximately 97% of the votes. In the election, a former prime minister, a former parliament member, and former military chief of staff who were seen as strong candidates declined one after another to run or were detained by the authorities, leaving only one opponent for the president. Approximately 41% voted, a figure lower than in the previous election.

7 Situation in South Sudan

(1) Political Turmoil

The North-South civil war that had continued since 1983 between the Sudanese Government consisting mainly of Arab Muslims in the north and the anti-government group consisting mainly of African Christians in the south came to an end in 2005 with the entry into force of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) brokered by neighboring countries, the United States, and others. In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan was separated and gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan as the

35 A Sunni political organization established in Egypt in 1928 as an organization targeting the general public to “revive Islam.” In the 1950s, it became a target of a clampdown for plotting the assassination of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. However, by the 1970s, the organization became moderate to the extent of conducting political activities through parliament. Meanwhile, extremist organizations were derived, with Muslim Brotherhood serving as the parent organization.

36 Although no one claimed responsibility for this incident, it has been noted that it was conducted by ISIL-Sinai Province.
result of the referendum held in January 2011 according to the provisions of the CPA. On the same day, the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established as the result of the independence.\(^{37}\) Salva Kiir Mayardit, a Dinka, became president while Riek Machar, a Nuer, became vice president. However, political turmoil continued even after the independence.

The political conflict between the pro-Kiir faction (mainstream) and the pro-Machar faction (anti-mainstream group)\(^{38}\) was brought to the surface after President Kiir had dismissed Vice President Machar and all the other cabinet ministers in July 2013. Following this, in December of the same year, clashes that broke out between the government and the pro-Machar faction in the capital city of Juba and violent acts targeting specific ethnic groups spread to different areas of the country in a short span of time, resulting in a large number of casualties, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

(2) Beginning of Peace Building

With the establishment of UNMISS in July 2011, the “Intergovernmental Authority on Development” (IGAD)\(^{39}\) assisted by the UN and the AU initiated efforts to start dialogues among South Sudanese leaders and enable their reconciliation. In January 2014, the IGAD helped the government and the pro-Machar faction to sign an agreement on ceasing hostile activities in South Sudan.

Having partly boosted by these initiatives, in August 2015, the government, the pro-Machar faction and others reached the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS), including the establishment of a transitional government. In response to the agreement, the UN Security Council also added support for the implementation of the agreement to the UNMISS mandate. Later, efforts to implement the agreement were made, and on April 29, 2016, Transitional Government of National Unity was established in which Mr. Kiir and Mr. Machar were the president and the first vice-president respectively.

(3) Recent Trends

In July, 2016, a shooting occurred in Juba between the security forces of President Kiir and First Vice President Machar. Following this, Machar left Juba and fled the country, and President Kiir dismissed Machar from the office.

Given this harsh situation, the international community has joined forces for peace and stability. The nation-building process for South Sudan is now entering a new stage.

In August 2016, the UN Security Council created the Regional Protection Force (RPF)\(^{40}\) for the purpose of maintaining security in Juba and surrounding areas. In April 2017, an advance party of Bangladesh’s construction engineering company arrived in South Sudan as the first unit of the RPF.

More troops continue to be dispatched. In December of the same year, the first High-Level Revitalization Forum\(^{41}\) was held under the leadership of IGAD, where cessation of hostilities was agreed between the government, the pro-Machar faction and others.

In December 2016, the South Sudanese Government announced the initiation of the national dialogue\(^{42}\) in order to promote national reconciliation and advance the progress of consensus. In May 2017, a swearing-in ceremony of the national dialogue steering committee

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\(^{37}\) The initial mandate period was one year, with UNMISS comprised of up to 7,000 military personnel and up to 900 police personnel. UNMISS was designed to fulfill the roles of: (1) supporting peace consolidation and thereby fostering long-term state building and economic development; (2) supporting the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution and protection of civilians; and (3) supporting the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish the rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

\(^{38}\) From here on, the anti-mainstream faction formed around Machar is referred to as the pro-Machar faction.

\(^{39}\) IGAD was established in 1996. Its members are the eight East African nations of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, and South Sudan.

\(^{40}\) According to UN Security Council Resolutions 2304 and 2406, the Regional Protection Force (RPF) is responsible for providing a stable environment for Juba and neighboring areas, and also in other areas in South Sudan, as necessary. The RPF is authorized to use all necessary means to achieve the following three mandates: (1) facilitation of conditions for safe and free movement both in and outside of Juba; (2) Protection of the airport and key facilities; (3) Engaging to any actor that is credibly found to be preparing attacks on UN protection-of-civilians sites or civilians, etc.

\(^{41}\) It was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, bringing together the various factions in South Sudan, to revitalize the 2015 Agreement on The Resolution of The Conflict.

\(^{42}\) An initiative that the government started in order to promote national reconciliation through consultations on the causes of domestic clashes and ways to resolve them.
was held to launch the national dialogue. Since then, some progress in the initiatives towards domestic stability, including the commencement of grass-roots level dialogues nationwide, has been confirmed. In June 2018, President Kiir, former First Vice President Machar and others signed “Khartoum Declaration of Agreement on South Sudan,” under which a permanent ceasefire came into force. However, the details of the political system and security arrangements have not been specifically determined, so the situation bears watching.


44 In May 2017, the United Kingdom hosted the “London Somalia Conference,” where cooperation by the international community towards strengthening Somali National Armed Forces was confirmed.

45 Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia supply most of the troops. Security Council Resolution 2372 (August 2017) determined that the troops would be reduced from 22,126 members to

46 In October 2017, a terrorist attack using Vehicle-Borne IEDs (VBIED) occurred in Mogadishu, killing more than 500 people.

47 In November 2017, U.S. forces conducted air strikes in Somalia targeting ISIL.

48 In August 2014, AMISOM, jointly with the Somali National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), raised a rebellion in January 2012. Other groups, including “Ansar Dine,” an Islamic extremist group joined the rebellion. The MNLA conquered some northern cities and declared the independence of the northern region in April 2012. Subsequently, Islamic extremist groups, including Ansar Dine that expelled the MNLA, “Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa” (MUJAO), and “Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM), started to govern the northern region based on the Sharia law, aggravating the humanitarian and security situations in northern Mali.

49 “Jama Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM; literally, protector of Islam and Muslims).”

8 Situation in Somalia

(1) Establishment of an Integrated Government

Somalia has been in a state of anarchy since its government collapsed in 1991. It continues to face a serious humanitarian crisis to this day as a large number of refugees are generated. After 14 years, in 2005, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was inaugurated through the intermediation of the neighboring countries. In 2012, when the period for provisional governance by TFG ended, a new cabinet was inaugurated, and a unified government was established for the first time in 21 years.

In February 2017, a presidential election was held, in which Mohamed Abdullah Mohamed Farmajo, a former prime minister in the TFG defeated then-incumbent President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to become president. President Farmajo is currently rebuilding the Somali National Armed Forces with support from other countries.

(2) The Rise of Al-Shabaab and the Piracy Issue

Somalia faces two issues, terrorism and piracy. Al-Shabaab, a Sunni extremist organization based in the central south, has repeatedly conducted terrorist attacks against the government and other targets. In 2007, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was established with the approval of the UN Security Council to stabilize the situation.

In August 2014, AMISOM, jointly with the Somali National Armed Forces, launched “Operation Indian Ocean” and successfully recaptured some of the cities in the central south which had served as the bases of Al-Shabaab. In the following month, Al-Shabaab’s leader was killed by the attacks of the U.S. Forces.

Al-Shabaab has been weakened to some degree as a result of these operations, but it still exists as a threat. It frequently stages attacks against the bases of Somali and AMISOM forces and terrorist attacks within Somalia and in AMISOM member countries. It has been pointed out that ISIL fighters have been flowing into Somalia in recent years. In these circumstances, counterterrorism operations by U.S. forces have been intensified since March 2017, when President Trump approved the intensification of the operations in certain areas by U.S. forces deployed in Somalia.

Additionally, in Somalia, especially in the northeastern part, there are believed to be outposts of pirates who are active off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The international community implements a series of initiatives to enhance the security capabilities of Somalia based on the perception that instability of Somalia triggers piracy issues. The international community has continued to implement initiatives off the coast of Somalia, which have contributed to steadily low level of the reported number of pirates attacks.

9 Situation in Mali

(1) Anti-government Insurgents

In Mali, an anti-government Tuareg insurgent group, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), raised a rebellion in January 2012. Other groups, including “Ansar Dine,” an Islamic extremist group joined the rebellion. The MNLA conquered some northern cities and declared the independence of the northern region in April 2012. Subsequently, Islamic extremist groups, including Ansar Dine that expelled the MNLA, “Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa” (MUJAO), and “Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM), started to govern the northern region based on the Sharia law, aggravating the humanitarian and security situations in northern Mali.
(2) Initiatives to Build Peace

In response to this situation, in December 2012, the UN Security Council approved the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), whose tasks included revitalizing the capabilities of Malian troops and security organizations and supporting the Malian authorities. The Malian provisional government recaptured major cities in the northern part of the country, assisted by the sending of troops by France and the deployment of AFISMA. In April 2013, the UN Security Council decided to establish the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), whose tasks included the stabilization of densely-populated areas and support for the reconstruction of national functions throughout Mali. In July 2013, MINUSMA, which had its authority delegated by AFISMA, became operational. With the support of MINUSMA, a presidential election was held in a peaceful manner, and a new government was established in September of the same year.

In May and June 2015, the Mali Government signed the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation with the armed groups “Platform” and “Coordination des Mouvements de l’Azawad (CMA)” respectively. In February 2017, the Mali Government and the armed groups began joint patrols based on the Agreement. However, little progress has been seen on the execution of the Agreement and there is concern over the delay in its implementation. Thus, in September of the same year, a UN Security Council resolution was adopted for the first time to impose sanctions on individuals and others who obstruct progress on the Agreement.

The UN Security Council decided in June 2016 to increase the strength of MINUSMA by approximately 2,500 members and adopted a resolution in June 2017 to give the political support of the UN Security Council to the deployment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force consisting of up to 5,000 members. In addition, in December of the same year, the UN Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide specified support for the G5 Sahel Force through MINUSMA in support of initiatives to counter terrorism by the countries in the region. At the same time, 42 MINUSMA personnel died as the result of terrorist attacks and other causes in 2017 alone. The unstable security situation continues and there is a need for further progress in the peace process.

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50 AFISMA receives troops from member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria.

51 In June 2013, the provisional government and MNLA reached an agreement on such issues as allowing the northern area to participate in the presidential election and approving the dispatch of Mali troops to northern cities.

52 The Joint Force consists of the following five countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

53 This is the largest number of annual deaths for any mission in UN Peacekeeping Operations in 2017.