

# What is WPS ?

Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

## The United Nations and WPS - Background -

### Internal conflicts in 1990's



**1990's** The large-scale of sexual violence in conflict as seen in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, drew worldwide attention



#### 1995 World Conference on Women

Established the goal of increasing the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels



#### 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Stipulated sexual violence in conflict as a war crime



### With these events...

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which, for the first time, recognized women as active agents at all levels of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and others

## Japan and WPS - Government of Japan Initiatives

- Adopted National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS
- The NAP covers WPS not only in the context of conflict but also disaster based on the experiences that Japan has overcome numerous large-scale natural disasters

### What is WPS?

- Providing protection and relief for women and girls and those in need, while recognizing that they are more vulnerable during conflicts and disasters
- Also having women take the lead and actively participate in all levels of conflict resolution and disaster relief

➡ **As a result, WPS contributes to more sustainable peace**



# Rationales and Significance of Promoting WPS for Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD)



- Women compose half of the population
- Women and girls are put in particularly vulnerable situation in conflicts and emergencies



WPS activities based on needs

Direct contribution to the protection of Japanese nationals



- Create a favorable environment where diverse individuals can demonstrate their abilities by promoting the participation of women in a variety of areas



- Capacity enhancement of Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) personnel as the core element of defense capabilities
- Operational Efficiency

Fundamental reinforcement of defense capabilities



- WPS cooperation with partner countries sharing common values
- Integration of gender perspectives for more effective implementation of JSDF operations abroad



As a responsible member of the international community

Contribute to peace and stability

# JSDF activities are Already in line with the WPS Concept!



## Disaster Relief



### 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake



Many female JSDF personnel have also been actively providing support. Through applying their perspectives, they identify the needs of the affected people at evacuation centers and deliver essential supplies as well as providing bathing support

## Transportation of Japanese Nationals Overseas



In the event of natural disasters, turmoil and other emergencies overseas, we work closely with relevant ministries and agencies to protect and rescue or transport Japanese nationals and other people overseas

### Transportation of Japanese nationals and others from Israel

Female JSDF personnel were dispatched and provided attentive support to affected women and children, thereby contributing to a smooth transportation mission!



#### [Terminology]

##### Gender:

Socially and culturally constructed differences that society attributes to sexes. It is different from the term of 'sex' which defines biological and physiological characteristics.

##### Gender Perspective:

A perspective that considers how gender-based differences shape the needs and interests of women and men.

While women and girls compose half of the population,  
**more than 90%** of JSDF personnel are male



As interactions with citizens through activities, such as disaster relief,  
are increasing both domestically and internationally,  
**participation of female JSDF personnel and  
integrating gender perspectives into our activities are  
more than ever crucial!**



This leaflet was produced based on the JMOD WPS Promotion Plan, adopted in April 2024.  
For more details, visit <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/wps/index.html>

# Based on JMOD WPS Promotion Plan Reinforcing the WPS Promotion in the JMOD/JSDF

## Change of Mindset

### WPS Seminars for Staff including Senior Officials

Implement repeated and continuous education for all JSDF personnel, while ensuring to have senior officials become WPS champions to lead WPS initiatives and activities



## Structural Development

### Reinforcing Human Resource Base

Continue reforms to promote active participation of women, work-life balance, and creating an environment of zero tolerance for harassment of any kind



### WPS Positions

Assignment of civilian and uniformed Gender Advisors



## International Cooperation

### Capacity Building Programs and WPS

Reflect WPS in relevant JMOD/JSDF capacity building programs such as PKO, humanitarian assistance/ disaster relief



### International WPS Seminars

Convene international WPS events by inviting eminent experts on WPS serving for the UN and conflict affected countries, and contribute to WPS promotion in partner countries

## Reflection of Gender Perspectives in JSDF Activities

### Gender Perspectives in Policy Planning and Implementation

All JSDF personnel implement activities incorporating gender perspectives in accordance with the plans

### WPS handbook

Consolidate lessons learnt from case studies of JSDF activities

