

## **Opening Remarks**

Tsuguo Ishino (Commandant of Joint Staff College, Lieutenant General)

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for coming to this Second International Peace and Security Symposium despite your busy schedules. We have, today, Professor Hoshino from Osaka University; Retired Major General Robert Gordon, who was the Force Commander of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea; and Dr. Osa of Association for Aide and Relief; and Mr. Kawabata from the UN Political Affairs Department; and Dr. Kamino from Gifu University. I want to thank all of these speakers for their contributions.

Now, I think that many of you know that this is the 20th anniversary since we first were engaged in the UN PKO activities. Let us look back in the history leading to today. Ministry of Defense and Self Defense Force has dispatched its first force in 1992 after the International Peace Cooperation Law or the PKO Cooperation Law was established. Our first mission was the UNTAC to Cambodia, and the most recent one was in South Sudan. We have dispatched 15 missions, troops and individuals, the cumulative total being 8,500 troops. During that time, the PKO Cooperation Law was amended twice in 1998 and 2001, and a ban on participation in the PKF was lifted, and the scope of our operations was expanded. The framework for use of weapons has gradually evolved. In 2007, it was decided that international peace cooperation activities is one of the main missions of the STF, along with National Defense and the maintenance of order.

Also, based on the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law or the Special Measures for Assistance in Iraq and Pirate Countermeasure Law, we have been dispatching ground, maritime, air forces to Bay of Aden and the Coast of Somalia.

In the 2011 National Defense Program Guideline, it is emphasized that we should contribute to secure the global peace and stability and human security. We have been actively participating in these activities and making high quality contributions, and we have earned a strong trust and high praise from the international community.

In the past 20 years, the situation surrounding UN missions have changed drastically, and the UN missions themselves have evolved through trial and error. The traditional PKO was focused on the ceasefire monitoring between countries, but now, in order to build sustainable peace, multiple functions are intertwined in a complex manner. It is the multidimensional mission that we have now seen the PKO evolve to. Because it is multidimensional, not just military but quite a wide range of actors including the police and civilians are involved. These multiple actors must be organically integrated or else we will not be able to achieve the target of the UN which is maintenance of international peace and stability, human rights development, and reconstruction. This is the environment we are in, and so for the SDF, it is important that we understand the latest trends about the UN mission as a whole and what are the situations in each of the contributing

countries.

The aim of this symposium is to learn about the issues and the future direction of the UN and the member states, and the information is to be shared not just amongst the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces, but also with the government, private sector, and academia, so that we can have high quality international contribution and human resource development. In order to achieve that goal, rather than focusing on different themes in each symposium, we make this a serial symposium and we will talk about the big direction of the UN missions and from the discussion of the previous symposium, we extract the theme for the next one and expand on our debate.

This is the second symposium, and we are going to focus on the increased multidimensionality of the PKO and the integration of the UN mission. We have various viewpoints; UN Secretariat, mission headquarters, commanders on the ground, organizational theory research. From various viewpoints, we are going to look at the UN Integrated Mission in a three-dimensional way and discuss the future issues and direction.

All the experts and everyone in the audience, thank you very much for coming today despite your busy schedules, and with that I close my opening remarks. Thank you so much.