

**Japan's Basic Thinking Regarding the Termination of Operations of the
Engineering Unit of the Self Defense Force in the United Nations Mission in South
Sudan (UNMISS)
(Provisional Translation)**

March 10, 2017
Cabinet Secretariat
Cabinet Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Defense

1. Since January 2012, the Government of Japan has dispatched the engineering units of the Self Defense Force (SDF) to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which was established to support the nation-building of the Republic of South Sudan, the newest country in the world. Since the engineering unit was dispatched, five years have passed with the total number of personnel reaching approximately 4,000, making it the longest deployment. (Before UNMISS, the longest deployment of engineering units was to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which lasted for 2 years and 11 months.)

2. Throughout its deployment, the SDF engineering unit has steadily implemented its mission amidst a severe environment in line with its initial purpose of contributing to the nation-building of newly-independent South Sudan.
The SDF engineering unit's achievements, including road repair for improving the livelihood of local residents and construction of facilities for internally displaced people in South Sudan, are the largest among previous deployments to UN Peacekeeping Operations.
The SDF engineering unit's major activities demonstrate the scale of its achievements, larger than any past deployment of Japan to UN PKOs—for instance, approximately 210 km of road repairs and 500 thousand square meters of land development.

3. Such dedication by the SDF engineering unit has been appreciated and highly praised by the United Nations as well as by South Sudan. His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, has commended Japan in particular, in his address on the occasion of the opening of the Transitional National Legislature of the Transitional Government of National Unity, that he would like to

“personally thank and appreciate the Japanese Government and people for their continued support to the government and the people of South Sudan,” through Japan’s development programs.

4. As the deployment of the SDF engineering unit to UNMISS has marked a milestone of five years in January 2017, making it the longest deployment of an engineering unit, the Government of Japan has been reviewing a possible way forward in a comprehensive manner.
5. As the period of dispatch of the SDF to UNMISS authorized by a cabinet decision is to expire at the end of March 2017, the Government of Japan has summarized the result of the review as follows.

(1) The nation-building process of South Sudan is entering a new stage with the efforts of the international community, as illustrated below:

- Last year, the UN established a Regional Protection Force (RPF) responsible for providing a secure environment in and around Juba, and decided to increase the force level of UNMISS. Although the prospect for an early dispatch of the RPF had been uncertain, the deployment process has started, advancing efforts for stability in South Sudan.
- In addition, in South Sudan, promoting reconciliation among different ethnic groups and advancing the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan is imperative. Towards this end, the Government of South Sudan decided last year to initiate the process of national dialogue, and recently has announced to start it in March. This illustrates the progress in the political process towards stability in the country.

(2) On the other hand, as mentioned above, the SDF has contributed to UNMISS more than to any other past PKO activity. This is demonstrated by the more than five years of activities of the engineering unit—the longest deployment for an engineering unit—and their many activities including to improve roads in Juba, the capital. In light of these activities, Japan considers that it can move on to a new phase regarding engineering activities in Juba.

6. Considering the above-mentioned issues in a comprehensive manner, Japan has come to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to shift the focus of its

assistance from engineering activities by the SDF to support for self-reliance of the government of South Sudan.

7. Specifically, the SDF engineering unit will withdraw from Juba around the end of May after the current 11th rotation of the SDF engineering unit completes its current task of road repair . Japan has decided that it would be appropriate to proactively contribute to a new phase of the nation-building of South Sudan through continuing and expanding the following activities:

- Support for the progress in the political process in South Sudan such as assistance for monitoring the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan through the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
- Support for the national dialogue including assistance for various domestic groups in South Sudan such as religious and youth groups to enable their participation.
- Human resources development such as capacity building of public financial management abilities for government officials and enhancement of police capabilities.
- Humanitarian assistance including food assistance.

8. The end of the SDF engineering unit's activities do not mean the end of Japan's assistance for South Sudan. Japan will continue to contribute to peace, stability and the nation-building of South Sudan in various ways.

9. Furthermore, Japan will continue to contribute to the activities of UNMISS through dispatching staff officers to its headquarters. Japan will also ensure smooth coordination in ending the activities of its engineering unit, such as by transferring the unit's heavy machinery to UNMISS.

Besides Japan, India, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, and China have been engaged in engineering activities in South Sudan. In addition, the UK has also started deployment of its engineering unit. Japan will continue to make possible contribution to their activities through close coordination with these countries at UNMISS headquarters.

10. Regarding the conclusion to terminate the SDF engineering unit's activities, Japan has already explained its conclusion to the UN, the Government of South Sudan, and countries concerned. In response, Mr. Salva Kiir, President of South Sudan, Mr. Herve Ladsous, the Under-Secretary General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Mr. David Shearer, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNMISS stated that they highly valued and appreciated the SDF for their dedicated activities and that they respect the conclusion made by the Government of Japan.

11. Under the banner of the Proactive Contribution to Peace, building on the past experiences of peacekeeping operations and making use of its own strengths, Japan will continue to contribute proactively in the field of international peace cooperation such as through enhancing capacity building and dispatching units and personnel.

Reference 1: Comparison of Japan's engineering activities between past UN peacekeeping missions and under UNMISS.

- Period: approximately 5 years and 2 months (about 5 times of UNTAC in Cambodia)
- Number of personnel: 3,854 (about 1.7 times of UNTAET and UNMISSET in East Timor)
- Major engineering activities:
 - Road repairs: about 210 kilometers (double of UNTAC work)
 - Land development: about 500,000 square meters (about 4 times of MINUSTAH work)
 - Building facilities: 94 locations (about 4 times of MINUSTAH work)

Reference 2: In his speech to the Transitional National Legislature of the Transitional Government of National Unity on February 21, President Salva Kiir stated, "I want to take this opportunity to personally thank and appreciate the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, and the Japanese government and people for their continued support to the government and the people of South Sudan through developmental programs and in the Security Council. I am also grateful to the Japanese Ambassador to South Sudan, Mr. Kiya Masahiko for his exemplary diplomatic engagement efforts, which have strengthened bilateral relations between our countries.

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