

Statement by Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Director General for Global Issues of the Foreign Ministry, on conflict prevention, post conflict peace building and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Austria on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Technical Support Team for its excellent Issues Brief, and we fully endorse the statement that peace, rule of law and governance are interrelated and critical foundations of sustainable development.

Peace is an important enabling condition for sustainable development, Without peace there is no development, and vice versa. The disturbing socio economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, gender inequality and economic inequality are likely to lead to violence and conflicts. In order to reduce these factors, inclusive development is essential as all the members of the society can enjoy the fruit of development and dividend of peace.

The importance of peace is not only a matter for conflict affected developing countries but also a matter for developed countries. We all know that freedom from fear is a fundamental human right in the United Nations, and we strongly believe that personal safety for individuals is a priority for everyone from the viewpoint of human security as peace ensures the protection of the people. Especially, in the case where the security of individuals is threatened, we have to address the issue of the protection of the vulnerable, women and children, as a matter of urgency, since they easily fall to victims of conflicts and violence.

The rule of law is a fundamental principle of governance. Undoubtedly the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, as stated by the declaration of the high level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2012. It is quite clear that the advancement of the rule of law is essential for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

We believe that access to accountable justice system, which is a central element

of the rule of law, is essential from the viewpoint of human security, as this is a fundamental form of the protection of the people. In addition, accountable justice system will lay the foundation for development, and it will ensure a stable and predictable environment for investment.

In the deliberation of the SDGs, one problem with peace, the rule of law and governance is the measurability of these themes, but there are a number of studies that show possible indicators are feasible to measure the degrees and progress of peace, the rule of law and governance in each country. The technical problems are not obstacles for us to promote these themes as essential elements for sustainable development.

Therefore, we are of the view that peace, the rule of law and governance should have stand alone goals, one for peaceful societies and the other for the rule of law and governance, as proposed by the High Level Panel report, which was presented to the Secretary General last May.