

DRAFT SPEECH FOR THE COMMANDANT

KEYNOTE SPEECH

BY

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TOPIC

**“TRENDS IN MODERN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND
CAPACITY-BUILDING ASSISTANCE OF PEACEKEEPERS:
JAPAN’S CONTRIBUTION TO PKO CAPACITY-BUILDING OF
CONFLICT-AFFECTED AFRICAN STATES”**

TOKYO-JAPAN

Mr. Chairman,

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Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be invited to this important annual International Peace and Security Symposium and to deliver the keynote address reflecting the theme:

“Trends in Modern Peacekeeping Operations and Capacity-Building Assistance of Peacekeepers: Japan’s Contribution to PKO Capacity-Building of Conflict-Affected African States”

I bring fraternal greetings from the people of Ghana, the Executive Committee as well as the staff of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, before I proceed to the substantive topic for this symposium, let me first and foremost indicate that a discussion on peacekeeping operations and the related capacity-building in Africa is important and topical at any given time. This is because of the existing conflict situations on the continent and the need to deploy and sustain UN and AU peacekeeping presence to restore peace and stability in the conflict affected countries. Such discussion is even much more important given the financial support Japan has been giving to African countries over the past years, and particularly, the sustained capacity-building assistance to the existing peacekeeping training institutions, including the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), of which I am the Commandant.

At this juncture, let me pay a special tribute to the Government of Japan for the continued assistance to the KAIPTC in research, training and capacity-building in the areas of Border Security Management, Small Arms and Light Weapons, Peacekeeping Terrorism among many others. The current project on “Improving Response Capacities to Terrorism in Peacekeeping Theatres in Africa”, which is being implemented by the KAIPTC and UNDP is financially supported by the Government of Japan.

Your Excellences, it is interesting to note that, the preliminary findings from field research relative to the on-going Japanese-funded KAIPTC-UNDP project reflects the theme of this symposium, making it relevant in the current peacekeeping context in Africa. In this regard, my address will highlight the following key thematic areas:

- *Capacity building and capability Challenges;*
- *Capacity Gaps;;*
- *Japan's contribution to peacekeeping and capacity-building assistance in Africa;*
- *Japan's support to KAIPTC; and*
- *New research and capacity-building areas requiring further Japanese assistance;*

Capacity-building and capability Challenges

Capacity-building is a major pre-requisite for efficient and effective peacekeeping operations. As such, apart from the UN-approved Core Pre-Deployment Training Manual (CPTM) and Specialised Training Manual (STM) used to prepare personnel before deployment, the UN also organizes induction and other refresher training programmes to enhance the capacities of peacekeepers and other peace operation officers in the conflict theatres. Nonetheless, capacity of peacekeepers to respond to the dynamic and ever-changing threats remains a challenge in various mission environments such as MINUSMA in Mali, MINUSCA in Central African Republic (CAR), and MONUSCO in Congo DR.

Mr. Chairman, what is worrying is the fact that, apart from the traditional transnational organized crimes such as drug and human trafficking that exist in such environments, the ever mutating nature of violent extremist and terrorist groups continue to challenge the efficacy and response capacities of peacekeepers. Indeed, while the asymmetric nature of the threat is part of the challenge, it is important to highlight the fact that the current UN peace operations framework does not allow peacekeepers to engage in counter-terrorism. As a result, whereas some T/PCCs provide various strands of counter-terrorism training for their contingents, others do not deem it crucial prior to deployment.

Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me indicate that, in the case of MINUSMA in Mali where a team of KAIPTC researchers recently undertook a study, the findings show a clear capacity gap as one of the underlying causes of increasing peacekeeper casualties.

In terms of specifics, the study identified weaknesses with regards to search and detection of mine and IEDs, limited knowledge about the country context, and weak intelligence gathering as some key areas where capacity is needed.

Your Excellences, this challenge is exacerbated by inadequate investment by African TCCs to buy standard equipment. And over the years, this has repeatedly had disastrous consequences on the ground for most peacekeepers. Countries for instance sign-up to Quick Intervention Forces (QIF) and instead of bringing tanks and armored vehicles for patrols they rather bring pickup trucks and physically expose their troops to danger especially when they hit an IED or are met with hostile fire on patrols. In Mali for instance, permit me to draw example between Operation Barkhane and African contingents. Indeed, while Operation Barkhane operating in the same area with standard logistics has had fewer casualties, most African troops suffer many casualties whenever there was terror, IED and other explosive attacks. Between 2013 and 2018, the casualty level among African troops are high (Chad 53, Burkina Faso, 28, Niger 23, Togo 19 and Guinea, 15) compared to Sweden 0, Germany 2, and Netherland 5). These varying statistics clearly show that with the right attitude to deploy standard logistics and resources the casualty levels can greatly be reduced.

Japan's Contribution to Peacekeeping and Capacity-building Assistance

Japan's longstanding commitment to human security including African development, peace and security is reflected in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) which is aimed at promoting multilateral cooperation and partnership with Africa. For the records, it is important to underline the direct participation of Japan in an international counter-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden, the subsequent build-up of its first overseas military base in Djibouti, and the Self-Defense Force's (SDF) participation in a UN mission in South Sudan (2012-May 2017). This increased security contribution has been driven by a need to react to various events including the increase in terrorist attacks and piracy in Africa in order to assure investors to continue to invest in that continent. Indeed, Japan's contribution to infrastructure development in Africa during

crisis periods such as was done in South Sudan, reflects on its growing reputation in Africa as a genuine human-centered actor in peacekeeping theatres.

Additionally, and based on Japan's recognition that capacity building is essential in implementing effective peacekeeping operations, Japan has been providing assistance to peacekeeping training centers throughout Africa for the promotion of the capacity of African countries to respond to conflicts generally, but also, to enhance their effectiveness in peacekeeping. In that regard, Japan currently supports nine such peacekeeping training centers in Africa, including the KAIPTC. Between 2008 and 2017, Japan's cumulative support to peacekeeping training centers in Africa amounted to 46 million US dollars. k

Japanese Support to KAIPTC

Since 2008, Japan through its global partnership framework with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported the KAIPTC through a number of projects and training interventions meant to reduce armed violence in West Africa through research, policy engagements and training. Between 2012 and 2017, the cumulative support to the KAIPTC through the UNDP framework amounted to \$3.87m. This assistance included a \$2m for an extensive project in the Sahel after the Arab Spring in Libya. The Sahel project trained over 700 personnel in five broad areas: Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation in the Sahel; Collaborative Policing; Security Sector Governance; Maritime Piracy and Transnational Organised Crime and Border Security Management in Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Additionally, the above-mentioned assistance included a \$700,000 project that targeted Liberia in 2016 where the KAIPTC developed a senior command course package for the Liberia National Police. The package included modules on elections management and gender at a time that the country was preparing to organize the last general elections in October 2017. Currently, through the assistance from Japan, the KAIPTC is exploring with nine leading African police and troop contributing countries the best options for enhancing the capacities of African peacekeepers to respond effectively to terror attacks during peacekeeping operations. In that regard, the Centre is working with these countries to provide a guide that would be used to enhance terrorism prevention during peacekeeping. Earlier on between 2008 and 2010, Japan provided a total of \$3m facility to enable the Centre commence a three-year regional training programme on small arms and light weapons. About 300 personnel were

trained under this initiative. Indeed, monitoring and evaluation reports done so far on the various projects indicates a profound appreciation by the various security agencies on the capacity building training given so far especially as it has resulted in great improvements in their job.

Possible New Areas for Japanese Support and Engagement

One key issue area where Japanese engagements would be crucial is in supporting advanced policy and empirical research into the menace of extremism especially in West Africa. With its far-reaching consequences and often inseparable connections to terrorism, more efforts should be made to understand and appreciate how extremism combines with existing conflicts fault lines to impacts society. Such study will inform the design and development of grounded capacity building interventions for affected communities and agencies to prevent its manifestations.

Another issue that often underlines most of the security threats in Africa is the menace of transnational organized crimes. Oiling the wheels of conflicts and occupying 'ungoverned' spaces across the Sahel, Gulf of Guinea and Mano River enclaves, transnational organized crimes present a potent threat to state and regional stability. In Mali for instance, TOCs have been identified as key sources of sustenance for terrorist groups, who exploit the porousness of borders to propagate their illicit activities. Interestingly, while a lot is said about the menace, not much is known about its dynamics and impact on peace and security. In this regard, a study on state response capacities would be crucial in crafting multilateral cross-border interventions to address the problem of organized crime.

Last but not the least, another category of actors that require attention is group of provincial security providers in local government arrangements in countries across the sub-region. The experiences of the KAIPTC in Liberia as already mentioned shows that these are the frontline actors that require capacity to respond to specific threats that are not of a national nature as quickly and effectively as possible. A sustained intervention in this regard could help minimize the escalation of issues to levels of conflicts around the continent.

I would like to end by expressing my profound appreciation to the Government of Japan for the years of demonstrated commitment to African peace, security and development, as reflected vividly in the technical and financial assistance that enables very important interventions to be channeled towards research and capacity building of state and non-state actors. These have enabled the KAIPTC to stay engaged with governments, civil society actors, regional and sub-regional structures and the United Nations on matters that are essential to human security.

I thank you for your attention.