

“United Nations 80th Anniversary Forum”

– China Seen Through the United Nations: In the Era of Multilateralism –Summary Report

Date: October 27, 2025 (Reiwa 7)

Time: 16:30–18:00

Venue: Multipurpose Conference Room, Second Members’ Office Building of the House of Representatives

Summary Report: *Koki Imon*



Moderator: *Masakuni Tanimoto*, Deputy Secretary-General, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation



Banri Kaieda, Member of the House of Representatives (Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan)

Secretary-General, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation / Former Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry



Good afternoon, everyone.

I am Banri Kaieda, Secretary-General of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation, the organizing body of today's forum.

As you know, the United Nations was founded eighty years ago, in October 1945. To commemorate this milestone, our Committee decided to hold this United Nations 80th Anniversary Forum.

Today, we are honored to welcome distinguished officials from the United Nations, including Dr. Tshilidzi Marwala, Under-Secretary-General and Rector of the United Nations University — the only UN body headquartered in Japan — and Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for joining us despite your busy schedules.

It is a great honor and pleasure to have this opportunity to hear directly from individuals who play vital roles within the UN system. The United Nations University, which focuses on urgent and global issues affecting humanity's survival, development, and welfare, shares common objectives with the World Federalist movement. Hearing directly from Rector Marwala will undoubtedly provide valuable insight and inspiration for our future activities.

Given the tense situation in East Asia, we also look forward to hearing from Mr. Chatterjee, who serves as the UN Resident Coordinator in China, about the country's current state and the role of multilateral diplomacy.

In Japan, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution in commemoration of the UN's 60th anniversary, and the House of Councillors passed another on the 60th anniversary of Japan's admission to the UN. These resolutions pledged Japan's continued contribution to international peace by strengthening and reforming international institutions, advancing international law, promoting disarmament diplomacy — particularly concerning nuclear weapons — and striving toward the realization of a world federation to secure a peaceful future.

As we commemorate the UN's 80th anniversary today, I hope that this forum — attended by senior UN officials — will serve to remind us of the ideals embodied in those parliamentary resolutions. Although there has been a long hiatus in adopting a new Diet resolution, I have not given up. I intend to continue working toward that goal.

In this increasingly complex international environment, I believe today's forum offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the future of peacebuilding and the advancement of the rule of law.

Thank you very much.

Tetsuro Fukuyama, Member of the House of Councillors (Independent)

Vice President of the House of Councillors / Vice President, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation



Thank you very much.

I am Tetsuro Fukuyama, currently serving as Vice President of the House of Councillors.

I would like to sincerely congratulate and pay my deepest respects to Under-Secretary-General Dr. Tshilidzi Marwala and Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China, on the occasion of this important gathering.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to visit South Africa — the home country of Dr. Marwala — to attend the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit. During the meeting, parliamentary leaders from around the world expressed deep concern about the current state of international affairs and the erosion of the rule of law, engaging in very meaningful discussions.

I understand that Mr. Chatterjee is the son-in-law of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. During my tenure in government, I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ban four times. Compared to that period, the international environment surrounding the United Nations has changed dramatically. Over the past decade, global developments have been extraordinarily rapid and, in many respects, deeply concerning.

Therefore, I am delighted that we have this opportunity today to engage in dialogue with both of you.

Japan, as you know, remains committed to upholding a free and open international order based on the rule of law, and to strengthening it further. Today coincides with major regional and global developments — including ASEAN, APEC, and, as we speak, the expected arrival of President Donald Trump in Japan. In this context, it is essential for Japan to play a responsible role in the international community.

I believe that today's meeting will contribute meaningfully to that endeavor, and I sincerely hope for constructive discussions among all participants.

Lastly, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to Professor Sukehiro Hasegawa and Chairman Mitsuo Ohashi for their continued guidance and support.

Thank you very much.

Mitsuo Ohashi, President, World Federalist Movement Association of Japan

Chairman, People's Political Association



I am Mitsuo Ohashi, President of the World Federalist Movement Association of Japan. Please allow me to offer my remarks while remaining seated.

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee for joining us today. I would also like to thank Dr. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University, who attended this event in June of last year, for kindly joining us once again.

Today's host, the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation, serves as the parliamentary wing of the world federalist movement, while I chair its civil counterpart, the World Federalist Movement Association of Japan.

The World Federalist Movement seeks to reform and strengthen international institutions and international law—including the United Nations itself—with the ultimate goal of establishing a world federation in which all people, transcending national, ethnic, and religious differences, can live together in harmony.

Amid today's growing global uncertainty, this gathering offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the future of the United Nations as it marks its 80th anniversary.

I pledge to apply the insights gained here to the future activities of our movement.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Tshilidzi Marwala

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations / Rector of the United Nations University (UNU)



distinguish guests, it is a profound honor to address you today at this forum, especially given the fact that the UN is commemorating its 80th anniversary. I'd like to express my deep appreciation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the kind invitation and initiative in hosting this important discussion. For 8 decades, the United Nations has helped humanity navigate some of the greatest challenges. Each time I read the UN charter, I'm reminded of the profound that we owe to those who, in the ashes of war, committed themselves to the cause of peace and the responsibility we share to honour the legacy today.

So the ideas of the Charter extends far beyond the United Nations itself. Each of us has a role to play in advancing its spirit and principles. Japan has long stood as a steadfast advocate for the UN, for multilateralism, and for the peaceful dialogue through which we find common solution to share challenges. While Japan remains the third largest contributor to the UNS regular budget. Your nation's contributions to our international community extend far beyond financial support.

Through consistent leadership in Diplomacy and peace. Japan continues to demonstrate the power of constructive global engagement. This year, that legacy continued as Japan hosted major international gatherings such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the World Expo in Osaka, which the United Nations University organized side events. This and one commitment is embodied too by the Japanese leaders serving across the UN and other international organizations. Figures such as Miss Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, Miss Shoko Norda, Assistant Secretary General of UNDP, and Judges Yuji Iwasawa and Tomoko Akane, Presidents of the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court respectively, exemplify Japan's significant contributions to the international community. Their service reminds us that peace is not passive. It is built through inclusive multilateralism and pioneer leadership.

As UN achieve 80th year, we also mark our 50th anniversary as the United Nations University, where I am privileged to serve as an rector. Last month, it was our great honor to welcome Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress of Japan to our headquarters to commemorate this historic occasion. Joined by several distinguished members of the Diet, this occasion can it profound significance, reflecting Japan's deep and unwavering commitment to international peace, religion, sustainable development.

When Japan's support for UNU began more than 50 years ago with a generous contribution from the government of Japan to establish an endowment fund as well as headquarters facilities, allowing UNU to open its doors and launch its academic work in September 1975. Five decades later, UNU remains the only UN body headquartered in East Asia. The university has grown into a global network of 13 institutes across 12 Countries dedicated to advancing solutions to humanity's most pressing challenges.

Since my appointment is lecture of you and you in 2023, I have been deeply tied by the warm welcome extended to be across Japan by the government, by ministers and members of the diet, by the academic community, by business leaders and the many friends of the United Nations who share our mission. Many of you represent constituency far beyond Tokyo. As rector of UNU, I sent myself to the goal of visiting each of Japan's 47 prefectures to deliver public lectures and engage directly with local communities. It has already taken me to 24 prefectures across this remarkable country. Everywhere I have gone, I have encountered a shared resilience and a deep commitment to harmony among people, with nature and with the future we hope to build for generations to come. I believe it is essential that UNU continues to be present not only in Tokyo, but across all Japan, bringing the United Nations closer to the people it serves.

I want you to express my deepest appreciation to the National Diet of Japan for this kind invitation to this commemorative event, and to the Government of Japan for his continued support for an partnership with the United Nations system. May the next eight years of the United Nations further strengthen this bonds as we work together towards peace, dignity, equality and sustainable development for all. Thank you.

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee

United Nations Resident Coordinator in China



Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and greetings to all the members of the Diet, Under Secretary General Marwala, my colleagues from the UN family present here. Perhaps I'll start on a very somber note. And the somber note is that for the first time, the entire edifice of multilateralism is under the greatest stress post the Second World War.

We are seeing a convergence of multiple threats that have merged together. At the same time, we are also seeing bigger displacements that have ever happened to post the Second World War. So essentially, if I were to tell you that from 1945 to now, this moment in our history where humanity has been great progress in achieving many, lifting our people from poverty, ending many of the complex conflicts and issues, we have come to the lowest point ever that we would have anticipated. It's clear

that that is the reason that the UN Secretary General launched the summit of the future with the aim of reviving the UN system, because it was clear that the UN was not fit for purpose. We were still stuck in a 1945 window, whereas we have not responded to the needs of the 21st century.

And the key principles around the summit of the future, I could just remind everybody's memory was #1 on global governance #2 on peace and security number 3, on accelerating the Sustainable Development goals #4 on science, technology, artificial intelligence, and #5 most importantly, on the youth and future generations. global governance, peace and security, accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals, artificial intelligence, science and technology, and youth and future generations. And that led to the Pact of the Future and. The Pact of the Future is what gives is the North Star is the direction that we need to take in order to revive multilateralism.

I needed to give you this macro picture because I have 10 minutes and then I will home it. Now to my role in China as the leader of the UN development system there. In 2024 with the government of China we were able to do 8 pre summits ahead of the summit of the future along these five overarching themes. The Chinese government to take very Seriously on the whole issue of the revival of the multilateralism. This year, in March, people convened the summit, called an International Symposium on the Pact for the Future in Beijing. What I can tell you is I've been living in Beijing for the past five years and I've visited about Seventeen to eight Of the provinces In China. Per capita GDP In 1979 was \$180 and 90% of their population was extremely poor.

Now lifted up their people out of abject poverty, they've ended abject poverty in their country and they've achieved lifted up about 800 million people in about four decades. We have no parallel in history right now that compares to that. they have nine percent Of the world's agricultural land, 9% and yet they feed 1/5 of the world's population. And to give you a comparison, Africa has 60% of the world's arable land and they import \$300 billion worth of food every year.

So why am I saying this? I think it's important to understand that China has transformed itself dramatically as a nation state. And it's not a small population, it's 1.4 billion people. IT was A convergence of three things That made China make this leapfrog political will, the right public policies and strong partnerships. I believe that today, if we have to revive multilateralism, there are three countries in the Asia Pacific region that are going to be very consequential in survival. Japan, China, South Korea. I sincerely, as AUN staff member, hope that despite the historical and and the geopolitical differences, these three countries in Asia coming together can actually give velocity To the whole issue. And the whole idea of a renewed multilateralism, we can't be the multilateral institutions that are caught in the old times. We have to be a forward-looking, more leaner, more capable, more active, multilateral. In the Last one year, geopolitics and diplomacy has been upended. It's completely radicalized. We would never have known that we would come to this point suddenly.

So what is needed is wisdom, legacy, history and dynamism, which right now exists here, which right now exists in the region, and Japan's leadership is going to be very, very consequential in making sure that we can advance on this agenda. Thank you

Masahiro Komura

Member of the House of Representatives, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan



Thank you very much for the highly important remarks we heard today.

I believe Japan is a country that cannot survive in isolation. Our food self-sufficiency rate is 38 percent, and our energy self-sufficiency is only 12 to 13 percent.

Accordingly, a peaceful and stable world is, in fact, Japan's greatest national interest.

From this standpoint, I will continue, as a Japanese legislator, to contribute to the realization of stability and peace in the international community. Thank you.

Hiroyuki Moriyama

Member of the House of Representatives, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan



I serve with the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation. From the perspective of multilateral relations, securing core, stable financial contributions to international organizations has become increasingly difficult for Japan.

While we continue to provide bilateral support and project-based funding, we have been discussing how to ensure steady, foundational support within multilateral frameworks. To move things forward reliably, it is essential that the institutions forming the foundation of these efforts remain robust. We intend to further strengthen cooperation with relevant organizations going forward.

Akihiro Kagoshima

Member of the House of Councillors, Democratic Party for the People



Thank you very much for today.

When I worked at the OECD, there was a period when I collaborated with colleagues from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/SCBD). Even then, amid the many global issues we faced, I felt keenly that countries must respond in unison.

The same holds true today: the world faces numerous challenges. In this context, I hope to consider—together with all of you—the role Japan can play, and to work hard to fulfill it.

Thank you again for your continued cooperation.

Masaharu Nakagawa

Former Member of the House of Representatives; Advisor, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation; Former Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



Allow me to be brief. I once “graduated” from parliamentary service, but I have returned to rejoin my colleagues.

As several speakers have pointed out, multilateral diplomacy—and indeed the United Nations itself—is facing a moment of crisis. I see this recognition as fundamental to building peace and a new international order for the next era.

In my view, this situation has arisen because the UN is not functioning sufficiently. Japan should therefore move in step toward UN reform and actively take up this challenge.

It is also important to make steady progress starting in areas where the UN can take the lead in consolidating cooperation among nations. I very much hope such efforts will be further advanced.

Speaking today as one of your supporters, I wish to reiterate these expectations.

Hitoshi Aoyagi

Member of the House of Representatives, Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party)



As noted, multilateralism is indeed in a critical condition. Conversely, however, I believe this also presents a new opportunity for the United Nations.

Now is an excellent time to pursue reorganization and rebuilding of the UN so that we can once again create a “truly useful United Nations” that delivers real impact and earns high regard from member states. A crisis can also be a turning point; it is vital that we seize this opportunity. Drawing on my experience as a former UN staff member, I will work diligently—as one of Japan’s national legislators—to realize a better UN system and a healthier multilateralism.

Thank you very much.

Akira Koike

Member of the House of Councillors, Japanese Communist Party



I am Akira Koike of the Japanese Communist Party. Thank you very much for today.

On the UN’s 80th anniversary, Secretary-General António Guterres said that the United Nations is not merely an institution but a “living promise” that protects people across borders, continents, and generations. I believe that is exactly right.

The UN has played a truly significant role—in matters of peace, in human rights, and in the effort to eradicate poverty. Three years after its founding, it adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, clearly affirming that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

This spirit is also embedded in Japan’s postwar Constitution. As members of the National Diet, we must do everything we can to realize these principles in our society. I would like to ask Mr. Chatterjee a question.

Multilateralism is a profoundly important approach; from that perspective, what role should Japan play in the Asian region? I believe the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) is an extremely important framework for building peace in this region, and that the Government of Japan should engage actively in it. Furthermore, I think it is essential

to build a regional peace architecture in Asia that is inclusive of China. What are your thoughts on this point?

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee

United Nations Resident Coordinator in China

I think Japan has a deep historical legacy which connects to the UN in many ways. And Japan also understands the consequences of conflict. We know what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. so I think Japan is best place to advocate for peace simply because it has seen what are the consequences of war. And I served as a former military officer. I spent 12 years in the Army, of which I spent 5 1/2 years in real combat.

So the positioning of Japan in the Asia Pacific context as well as the positioning of Japan in the larger scheme of things, it can be a key player in the rebuilding of that relationship that I spoke to specifically when I'm Speaking of Japan, South Korea and China Nexus. And where are those convergence points? Despite the differences, where are those points of convergence? And I can tell you many points of convergence. The ageing problem, the low fertility rates, the issues of public health, the issues of climate change. There are so many places that they could converge on which Opens up opportunity Of greater understanding and really it allining the revivalism to happen. I can see that happening in China very much because I'm living there. What we need is much more dialogue at a political level as well as the second and third track level. Frankly, in my 5 years and I come from India, and you know that India is a hostile foreign country to China. But Despite that, they accept me as the head of the UN in China.

What thing would just common in Asian culture, particularly in Japan, South Korea, China, is the relationships that you build, the relationships of trust that allows dialogue to happen. I believe the best place。 people are people like Ourselves from the Communist Party of Japan or many other parliamentarians who can actually start an engagement with their counterparts in China to look at where that common ground is. And I believe that common ground is there. This is what we lead to because what is the UN? The UN is a representation of its member states. It's as strong as the Member States wanted to be or as weak as the Member States wanted to be. I'm married to a South Korean. My son loves Japan and loves to come here for his holidays, and I live in China. So it's a very unique combination of things that brings us to perspective here.

LaSalle Ishii

Member of the House of Councillors, Social Democratic Party



I would like to express my sincere respect to everyone who is working—together with the United Nations and within the framework of great-power diplomacy—to resolve conflicts and build peace. I have joined today to learn, so that I too can contribute in some small way to these efforts.

The Social Democratic Party is a political party whose mission is to bring the Constitution of Japan to life—that is, to translate its ideals into concrete legal and institutional practice. Article 9 is often discussed in the context of opposing war, but when read together with the Preamble, it becomes clear that it also calls upon the legislature and the Cabinet to pursue skillful diplomacy.

The term *multilateralism* was, to be honest, not one I was very familiar with; but when phrased as *multicountry cooperation*, its importance is unmistakable. It stands in direct contrast to a victim-conscious, self-centered “Japan-first” mindset, and instead represents an attitude of coexistence. There will be many difficulties, but I believe we must join forces and move forward together.
Thank you very much.

Naoto Sakaguchi

Member of the House of Representatives, Reiwa Shinsengumi



Good afternoon, everyone.

As just introduced, I have served as a UN Volunteer, working on the ground in countries such as Cambodia and Mozambique on peacebuilding and support for democratization.

I am determined to remain steadfast in my commitment to democracy. In today’s world, there is a growing trend that “might makes right,” with those in power acting as if anything is permissible for their own national interest. Precisely in such a context, we must defend and build democracy—a society that respects the voices of those in vulnerable positions and minorities.

For Japan, too, as a new survival-of-the-fittest international order takes shape, we must devote ourselves to coexistence with countries in weaker positions in the international community. As a precondition, I believe it is essential to build a more democratic world.

In this regard, I would welcome your advice on the roles that the United Nations and Japan should play.
Thank you.

Eisei Kawaharada

Member of the House of Representatives, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan



I represent a constituency at Japan's northernmost edge, bordering Russia—an area where agriculture and fisheries are the principal industries.

In my youth I backpacked through roughly eighty countries over the course of three to four years, and through that experience I witnessed the world's diversity first-hand.

As we mark the UN's 80th anniversary, I feel more strongly than ever that the world's divisions are widening. That impression grows day by day as I stay in touch with friends across the globe. In these circumstances, the role of the United Nations is, I believe, of the utmost importance.

Turning to Japan, and related to the earlier point about leadership among Japan, the Republic of Korea, and China, many people—especially young people—feel that Japan is being left behind in Asia and that its presence is fading. This

should not be the case. I am concerned that young Japanese are losing their ability to project peaceful messages to the world.

At the same time, Japan possesses many advanced environmental conservation technologies—what some call “nature tech.” We should take greater pride in these strengths and deploy them more proactively.

With that in mind, may I ask: in fields such as Japan's environmental technologies—our areas of comparative strength—how should Japan contribute and engage with the international community going forward?

I would be grateful for your views. Thank you

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee

United Nations Resident Coordinator in China

You know, just listen to you now. You inspired me with a lot of hope. Here is a young person in a parliamentary position. So congratulations first of all, to getting into this position. And I just feel that I hope in the next few years I see you leading this country because this is what we need. We need a new generation of leaders, a new type of thinking. You are best

connected compared to anybody else in this world today. You have the ability to make peace. I don't think us as well because we are so in our brains. We are so we become rigid. The flexibility that you've had you backpack to 80 countries. You are the future of where Japan's leadership lies. So thank you very much for introducing yourself. I have nothing to add but to say that perhaps you are the generation that will take multilateralism hope.

Kaoru Nemoto

Director, United Nations Information Centre (Tokyo)



I am Kaoru Nemoto, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation for organizing this invaluable opportunity.

I joined the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the 1990s, when, following the end of the Cold War, hopes were high for what the UN could achieve under the leadership of High Commissioner Sadako Ogata. I still vividly remember that sense of euphoria and soaring expectations. By contrast, today's international environment has become far more severe.

At the UN's 40th-anniversary commemorative meeting in 1985, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom remarked that the United Nations is a mirror reflecting the will of its Member States; there is no point in cursing the mirror if one dislikes the image—one must first correct one's own posture. This observation aptly captures the reality of the UN today.

Whether the United Nations—as a universal multilateral forum—functions effectively or not ultimately depends on the political will of its Member States. In a globalized world, no single country can resolve issues such as security or climate change alone. The UN is thus the diplomatic arena where we seek the intersection of national interests and the global good; strengthening the United Nations is, in fact, synonymous with strengthening national interest.

I strongly hope that governments and political leaders will reaffirm this point.

Next year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's membership in the United Nations. Japan has long centered its international cooperation on human security, grounded in “freedom

from want” and “freedom from fear.” On this milestone, I hope momentum will grow further to strengthen multilateralism.

As Mr. Banri Kaieda, Secretary-General of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation, noted earlier regarding a possible Diet resolution, I sincerely hope that efforts will be made toward its realization. Thank you very much.

Nami Asaka

Deputy Representative, UNHCR Representation in Japan



I am Nami Asaka, Deputy Representative of the UNHCR Representation in Japan. Thank you for inviting me to this important forum.

UNHCR is the UN agency that protects and assists people forced to flee—refugees and internally displaced persons—as a result of conflict and persecution.

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee noted earlier that “we have come to the lowest point since World War II.” Let me share a figure that illustrates today’s reality: the number of people who are forcibly displaced worldwide has reached 123 million, roughly double what it was a decade ago, and it continues to rise steeply.

The reasons include successive humanitarian crises across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe—new crises emerging even before existing ones are resolved—compounded in recent years by climate change and other intersecting factors that make resolution ever harder. The figure of 123 million is nearly equivalent to Japan’s population, which underscores the gravity of the situation.

As Director Kaoru Nemoto mentioned, we at UNHCR often recall High Commissioner Sadako Ogata’s words: *“There are no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian problems; there are only political solutions.”* Such political solutions must be forged through multilateralism and multilateral cooperation in the UN arena.

While the UN is a forum of governments, displacement and refugee issues cannot be solved by governments alone. We need whole-of-society engagement—civil society, the private sector, local authorities, and others. Since 2019, UNHCR has convened the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) as a multi-stakeholder platform. From 2023 to 2027, the Government of Japan

serves as a co-convenor. This December in Geneva, a mid-term “progress review” meeting will be held, and we look to Japan’s continued leadership.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Hideko Hadzialic

Resident Representative, UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo



Thank you very much for this opportunity.

In discussing multilateralism, I sometimes sense a present-day reality in which those outside certain frameworks feel excluded. For the UN to function, what matters most is the political will and resolve of Member States.

Consider Sudan, where 25 million people now need humanitarian assistance, yet media attention remains limited. Many countries are involved, and the economic dimension is a factor too—Sudan is among Africa’s largest gold-producing countries. The UN must therefore be a place for frank, reality-based dialogue, not purely formal discussions—especially when speaking about human rights alongside the economic drivers at play.

A recent report by Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, analyzes global military expenditure, which in 2024 reached about USD 2.7 trillion—an amount comparable to the combined GDP of all 54 African countries. We need candid intergovernmental discussions grounded in such realities.

In March this year, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence, though the United States, Israel, and Argentina voted against it, citing among other reasons the inclusion of the term “SDGs.” As a UN official, I must emphasize: the SDGs are not a left-right issue; they are universal values. For example, 138 million children are engaged in child labour—a clear SDG target that all political persuasions must strive to eliminate.

With guidance from Member States, we at UNDP will continue doing our utmost. Thank you.

Yuko Yasuda

Senior Private Sector Partnerships Officer, IOM Japan (UN Migration)



My name is Yuko Yasuda, Senior Private Sector Partnerships Officer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Japan. I am attending today on behalf of Chief of Mission Nakken Ritsu. Thank you for the invitation.

IOM supports people on the move for many reasons—conflict, disaster, and poverty, among others—including those forced to flee and those who migrate in search of better livelihoods. We help ensure that people can move safely, with dignity, and through regular pathways, and that they can integrate smoothly into their new communities. At the same time, we help mitigate negative impacts of movements—supporting border management, and investing upstream (for example, in climate adaptation) so people are not compelled to move.

IOM formally joined the UN in 2016, but our operations date back to 1950. This reflects how central human mobility has become to contemporary society. We do not “promote migration” per se; rather, we aim to realize “well-governed migration” that benefits origin countries, destination countries, and migrants themselves—and, where appropriate, to help create conditions that reduce the necessity of moving.

Japan is one of IOM’s most important supporters, and we are deeply grateful for its contributions. We look forward to working together to shape better human mobility in the years ahead. Thank you.

Fumito Miyake

Counsellor, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Thank you very much for inviting me. As we mark the UN's 80th anniversary, many have pointed out how profoundly the international situation is changing; the existing order is under challenge, and multilateralism is under strain. In this context, convening a forum like today's is highly meaningful from the perspective of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have listened closely to all the views expressed. Thank you.

At the General Debate during the High-level Week of the UN General Assembly in September this year, then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba posed the question: *"Is the United Nations fulfilling the role it should?"* He also called for "solidarity over division" and "tolerance over confrontation." In the same speech, he underscored the importance of reforming the Security Council. The Pact for the Future, adopted in September last year, likewise recognizes the urgent need for Security Council reform—a point we consider highly significant.

Amid this, the UN80 Initiative led by Secretary-General António Guterres is underway to improve the UN's efficiency and effectiveness—an initiative we regard as well-aimed for a UN that befits the 21st century. As Director Nemoto mentioned, 2026 will mark the 70th anniversary of Japan's UN membership. We see this as a window of opportunity for UN reform, both for Japan and the international community. We will seek to use this momentum to strengthen the UN's functions—including Security Council reform—so that it can fulfill its founding purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

Japan will continue to prioritize multilateral diplomacy centered on the United Nations. Taking into account the views and guidance shared today, we will work to safeguard Japan's national interests while actively contributing—as a major player in the international community—to peace and security and to responses to global challenges. We are also grateful for the many suggestions received from the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation over the years, and will reflect them in our efforts. We appreciate your continued guidance, and I wish the Committee ever greater success. Thank you very much.

Yasuaki Yoneyama

Managing Executive Officer; Global Head of Equity Finance Group, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)



I suspect I was invited today because I served as the World Bank's Special Representative to Japan until last summer. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Today's wide-ranging discussions—spanning history, the global economy, and geopolitics—were highly inspiring. As several speakers noted, Japan may well have been among the greatest beneficiaries of multilateralism in the postwar era. It was because the international environment was favorable both to Japan and to the wider world that our country achieved rapid economic growth. The same point can be made about the rapid growth of China, the Republic of Korea,

and India.

International organizations were shaped by decades of experience and purpose. The World Bank, where I once served, was born of the determination not to repeat the hardships of the 1930s. Japan's postwar recovery—including projects such as the Shinkansen—benefited greatly from this system.

Many have emphasized the importance of partnerships. Beyond intraregional collaboration in Asia, partnerships between international organizations are also crucial. From Sadako Ogata, I learned that the UN and the World Bank must not work in isolation—when people are in need, it is not a matter of which organization, but how each can bring its strengths to the table together. The world is indeed moving in that direction.

Cooperation between the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) is also advancing. Building on Japan's experience with Universal Health Coverage (UHC), a joint World Bank-WHO UHC center is to be established in Tokyo starting this winter to help share lessons globally.

Although I now serve at JBIC and have stepped back from the multilateral arena, I remain committed to international cooperation. I will continue working closely with colleagues from the United Nations and other international organizations here today, as well as with Members of the National Diet, to do our utmost. Thank you.

Masakuni Tanimoto

Deputy Director-General, Secretariat, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation

At this point, Deputy Director-General Tanimoto introduced other guests present at the plenary:

- Takahiro Kanamori, Director, Friends of the United Nations Asia-Pacific (FOUNAP)
- Tamotsu Nakamura, Advisor, Hakuhodo

Sukehiro Hasegawa

Chair, Committee for the Promotion of Global Governance; Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General



Given the limited time, I would like to raise just one point for discussion with Mr. Chatterjee.

Before that, Ms. Nemoto and colleagues from UNHCR have highlighted the current plight of refugees and others in difficult circumstances. As to what Japan is doing in response, let me offer one example: here with us is Ms. Lesechko Yelisaveta, who came from Ukraine and is now assisting our work. I would like to ask her to speak for two or three minutes about how she is doing at present.

Lesechko Yelisaveta

Intern of World Federalist Movement Youth Forum



Hello. I came to Japan as a refugee from Ukraine and first lived in Saga Prefecture with my parents for about six months. However, it was difficult to find work, and it was also hard for me to attend a Japanese high school, so we decided to move to Tokyo. In Tokyo I studied at a Japanese-language school for about two years and then entered ICU (International Christian University). I am now a first-year student. ICU is a liberal-arts university, and majors are declared in the third year. I hope to specialize in law and international relations, and I would like to work at the United Nations in the future. My message is that I want to help bring peace to the world, and I will keep working hard toward that goal.

Sukehiro Hasegawa

Chair, Committee for the Promotion of Global Governance; Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Mr. Koike, in fact, two months ago President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste came here. At that time, Chair Tamura of the Japanese Communist Party was seated in the same place, and in our conversation President Ramos-Horta said that Japan should contribute to international peace not only with China and South Korea but also together with the ASEAN countries and India, and that he would like Japan to exercise leadership in doing so. How can Japan take on that kind of leadership?

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee

United Nations Resident Coordinator in China

At least my 30 years in the UN, I've always seen Japan as a leader, whether in the humanitarian space, whether in the development space, whether in responding to forced migration or refugees, whether in responding to recovery issues. I've worked in 13 countries, most of the countries Japan was supporter. So I don't see a contradiction in Japanese leadership and the positioning of Japan both by the nature of geography, nature of location, and the nature of the outreach it has. Absolutely I agree. I was only talking about the Japan, South Korea, China becoming a fulcrum the velocity and that

would give velocity to ASEAN rebuilding of relationships between China and India. This there are the possibilities are incredible. What is lacking is leadership at a global level. What we need is regional leaderships to emerge because one reality is there. Multipolarity is here. It's come to stay in a multipolar world. How do we make sure multilateralism works. That needs leaderships of member states. Japan's influence is consequential There.

Sukehiro Hasegawa

Chair, Committee for the Promotion of Global Governance; Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Thank you.

On this point, may I ask if anyone else would like to offer views?

Banri Kaieda

Member, House of Representatives; Secretary-General, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation; Former Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Regarding China's posture toward the United Nations, it appears to have become particularly proactive in recent years.

However, if we are truly to make the UN function effectively, we inevitably confront the issue of the Security Council. As Counsellor Miyake noted earlier, Security Council reform is an unavoidable task, and Japan has a very large role to play in it.

Yet, to the best of my understanding, although China professes to "value the UN," it does not seem especially positive when it comes to the core matter of Security Council reform—particularly with respect to Japan's active involvement in that discussion.

Am I mistaken in this understanding? Mr. Chatterjee, I would be grateful to hear your views.

Siddharth Chatterjee

United Nations Resident Coordinator in China

If there is one thing that the Security Council permanent five members of the Security Council are united on is to not give up their power of five members. All 5 members decide who the next Secretary General will be. So the only way that change will happen is the momentum that I'm talking to you about. When the UN General Assembly and

member states in the multipolar arena start to say, yes, we need more representation in the Security Council and Security Council, which should not exclude the veto. Because otherwise, even if you expand the Security Council to 20, but if five members hold the veto it defeats the purpose, then it should be with equal authority to all members that become a part of that Security Council.

Sukehiro Hasegawa

Chair, Committee for the Promotion of Global Governance; Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Mr. Kaieda, I told Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba three years ago that what is actually blocking Security Council reform today is the group of six countries that seek permanent seats themselves—including two in Africa, and Japan as well. In other words, these countries focus on *becoming like the P5* and are looking primarily to their own interests.

That said, there is universal agreement on adding ten seats. Therefore, what Mr. Yasushi Akashi and I propose is to add ten seats with five-year terms, renewable by re-election.

Under such a formula, Japan could take one of those seats as early as next year, and it could continue to hold a seat through successive elections.

The leadership we need is not leadership for oneself alone, but leadership that considers the interests of the entire world. I strongly hope Japan will assume that role.

Masakuni Tanimoto

Deputy Director-General, Secretariat, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation (Master of Ceremonies)

Deputy Director-General Tanimoto declared the session adjourned, and the meeting was brought to a close.



Group Photo Taken After the Forum

Attendees of the “80th Anniversary of the United Nations” Forum

Hosted by the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation

(honorifics omitted / unordered)

(Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation)

(Chair)

- Banri Kaieda — Member, House of Representatives (Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan); Secretary-General, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation

(Members of the National Diet by party)

- **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**
 - Masahiro Komura — Member, House of Representatives
- **Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP)**
 - Hideyo Kawaharada — Member, House of Representatives
 - Hiroyuki Moriyama — Member, House of Representatives
 - Maiko Tajima — Member, House of Councillors (*attended the advance meeting only*)
- **Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party)**
 - Hitoshi Aoyagi — Member, House of Representatives
- **Democratic Party for the People (DPFP)**
 - Akihiro Kagoshima — Member, House of Councillors
- **Japanese Communist Party (JCP)**
 - Akira Koike — Member, House of Councillors
- **Reiwa Shinsengumi**
 - Naoto Sakaguchi — Member, House of Representatives
- **Social Democratic Party (SDP)**
 - Lassalle Ishii — Member, House of Councillors
- **Independents**
 - Hajime Hirota — Member, House of Councillors
 - Tetsuro Fukuyama — Member, House of Councillors; Vice-Chair, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation
- **Former Members**

- Masaharu Nakagawa — Former Member, House of Representatives; Advisor, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation; Former Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- Motoko Mizuno — Former Member, House of Councillors

(Represented by delegates on behalf of Diet members — excluding staff accompanying principals)

- **LDP**
 - House of Representatives: Toshiko Abe, Shozo Kudo, Shinako Tsuchiya
 - House of Councillors: Eri Koimi (*common English spelling: Eri Tominaga/Eriko Imai; see note below*), Kazuhiro Miyamoto
- **CDP**
 - House of Representatives: Tomoko Abe, Katsuyuki Shibata, Akira Nagatsuma, Daiki Michishita, Makoto Yamazaki
 - House of Councillors: Ayaka Shiomura, Yuko Mori
- **Ishin**
 - House of Councillors: Kenta Aoshima
- **DPFP**
 - House of Representatives: Satoshi Asano, Toru Fukuda
 - House of Councillors: Takanori Kawai
- **Independents**
 - House of Representatives: Fukushima Nukaga — Chair, Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation
 - House of Councillors: Makiko Dogokome

(Guests)

(United Nations system)

- **United Nations University (UNU)**
 - Tshilidzi Marwala — Rector, United Nations University; United Nations Under-Secretary-General
 - Nanami Yamaguchi — Senior Fellow, Office of the Rector (*title per UNU Office of the Rector; individual listing not publicly posted—see sources*)
- **United Nations China**
 - Siddharth Chatterjee — UN Resident Coordinator in China
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Representation Office in Japan**
 - Hideko Hadzialic — Resident Representative
 - Junko Saito — Deputy Resident Representative
 - Aiko Komatsu — Executive Assistant
- **United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Tokyo**

- Kaoru Nemoto — Director
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Japan**
 - Nami Asaka — Deputy Representative
 - Madoka Minashima — Senior External Relations Associate
- **International Organization for Migration (IOM) Japan**
 - Yuko Yasuda — Senior Private Sector Partnerships Officer

(Government / related institutions)

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan**
 - Fumito Miyake — Counsellor (Ambassador), Foreign Policy Bureau
 - — Yamada — Officer, United Nations Policy Division (*official Romanization not publicly listed; surname confirmed as Yamada*)
- **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**
 - Yasuaki Yoneyama — Senior Executive Managing Officer; Global Head, Equity Finance Group (*formerly World Bank Special Representative to Japan*)

(Affiliated/related persons)

- **Advisory Committee on Global Governance (Japan)**
 - Sukehiro Hasegawa — Chair; Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Timor-Leste
- **World Federalist Movement of Japan (WFM Japan)**
 - Mitsuo Ohashi — President (*also President, National Political Association*)
- **Hakuhodo Inc.**
 - Tamotsu Nakamura — Advisor
- **Friends of the United Nations (FOUN), Asia-Pacific**
 - Takahiro Kanamori — Director

(Secretariat)

- WFM Japan — Osamu Shiohama, Director
- Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation — Masanikuni Tanimoto, Deputy Director-General
- World Federalist Movement Youth Forum — Keitoku Ikegami, Representative
- World Federalist Movement Youth Forum — Koki Imon, Deputy Representative
- World Federalist Movement Youth Forum — Lesechko Yelisaveta, Intern
- Other interns, WFM Youth Forum