

147th IPU Assembly General Debate

“Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)”

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Japanese delegation

Thank you chair. MPs, ladies, and gentlemen, I am Hitoshi Aoyagi of the Japanese delegation. I am a member of the House of Representatives of Japan and belong to the Japan Innovation Party.

The armed attacks on Israel carried out by Hamas and other militant Palestinian Islamist groups beginning on October 7 have created an intolerable humanitarian crisis by involving innocent civilians. Japan strongly condemns these armed attacks and strongly calls for an immediate withdrawal and release of hostages.

On the other hand, Israel’s complete blockade has cut off the supply of electricity, water and food to the Gaza Strip. As a result, the lives of more than two million people, including ordinary citizens, are at risk in a situation that has been referred to as an open-air prison. These people are now living day-to-day in a state of anxiety and suffering.

Propaganda and fake news have covered the world and created a situation in which it is difficult to determine what is true. On the ground, a chain reaction of violence has triggered a continuous escalation of the conflict.

These terrible occurrences are far removed from the SDG ideal of peace and justice for all as enshrined in Goal 16 as the pursuit of “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.”

All parties involved are called on to exercise maximum restraint, enter into dispassionate dialogue, and to take action toward achieving a peaceful resolution that assigns the highest priority to the life and safety of the people.

Based on the shared values of peace and respect for human rights, the international community should recognize the destabilizing international situation as a common risk, and work together toward concluding and implementing a lasting peace agreement.

Thank you.