

PRIME MINISTER ABE MEETS WITH UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL GUTERRES

On August 8, 2018, Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, held a meeting with H.E. Mr. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Abe welcomed Secretary-General Guterres on his visit to Japan since last December, and thanked the Secretary-General for his heart warming message and for offering support for the loss and damage caused by the heavy rain in western Japan.

Prime Minister Abe welcomed Secretary-General Guterres as the first Secretary-General of the UN to attend the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan, the only nation in the world to be bombed with atomic weapons, stood ready to play a bridge building role between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States in realizing “a world free of nuclear weapons” in cooperation with the United Nations. Secretary-General Guterres shared the Prime Minister’s view, and explained his recent comprehensive disarmament agenda.

With regard to North Korea, Prime Minister Abe stated his expectation that the agreement between the United States and North Korea including North Korea’s commitment towards complete denuclearization of Korean Peninsula, will be fully and expeditiously implemented.

Prime Minister Abe and Secretary-General Guterres shared the view that the international community

needs to firmly maintain the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions in order to urge North Korea to take concrete actions.

In addition, Prime Minister Abe again sought understanding and cooperation on the immediate resolution of the abductions issue, and Secretary-General Guterres expressed his support to the matter.

With regard to UN reform, Prime Minister Abe stated that he supported Secretary-General Guterres' efforts to reform for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN, and would continue to closely cooperate with the UN.

Prime Minister Abe further stated that, along with UN reform, the reform of the UN Security Council was a matter of urgency, and expressed his expectation that the Secretary-General would exercise strong leadership on this matter.

Prime Minister Abe and Secretary-General Guterres exchanged views on a wide range of other global issues.

Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan would address various issues in the international community, such as the promotion of SDGs including in the areas of education and health, in cooperation with the UN which was the core of multilateralism.



The meeting with the UN Secretary-General



The Prime Minister shaking hands with the UN Secretary-General