<div style="text-align: center">**JICA's Position Paper on SDGs: Goal 16**</div>

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

1. Understanding of the present situation

(1) Why peaceful and inclusive society, access to justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are necessary

Sustainable development cannot be realized without a peaceful and inclusive society. However today, about 40 armed conflicts are under way in the world, generating more than 100,000 victims a year. Many of these armed conflicts are occurring in developing countries, while nearly 90% of more than 65 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are received in developing countries. Recently, the impact of terrorism and violent extremism is expanding throughout the world, both in developed and developing countries, threatening people's everyday life. In addition, issues such as significant poverty and disparity in developing countries, existence of inequality, lack of the rule of law, inefficient administrative management, etc., are further worsening the situation.

In order to promote sustainable development to ensure "no one will be left behind," "realization of a peaceful and inclusive society" where people enjoy stable lives becomes indispensable.

For this purpose, the rule of law as a universal value, access to justice for all, good governance at every level from national to local governments, creation of democratic institutions and systems guaranteeing wide participation and accountability, and building a country with security maintained and ensured become important. These are mechanisms necessary to keep anxieties and frustrations, which derive from political / economic instability or domestic disparity, from driving people to violence and radicalization in a country where the political regime is unstable, or where the development of social safety nets including social security system is insufficient.

It is also necessary to "build a resilient state" which prevents conflicts from occurring or recurring. It means that the government offers inclusive, prompt and efficient social services to the people, the people provide confidence to the government, and there establishes coexistence society where confrontation is avoided among different groups within the community. Once such a system is established, the country would be strong enough to control various risks and shocks coming from within the country and abroad,

and probability of occurring or recurring conflicts would become extremely low. As for refugee hosting countries, it is necessary to mitigate their burdens (particularly on local administration in refugee hosting regions), and to support enhancing their receiving capacity. These efforts are extremely important in terms of the SDGs concept on ensuring "no one will be left behind," as well as from the human security perspective, which Japan upholds as one of its core concepts on implementing development cooperation.

(2) Japan's efforts

The Development Cooperation Charter formulated in February 2015 gives "sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society" as one of its priority policies. The Charter upholds improvement in governance including development of legal and judicial systems, development of economic and social systems, development of civil servant human resources, capacity building of administrative institutions, and supporting democratic political structures as well as peacebuilding and fight against threats to stability and security.

Japan has experience, as a "developing country", on referring to external models from Western countries and creating a unique model that is a hybrid of the Japanese system and the Western system on national and local administrative / civil servant systems, and legal and judicial systems after the Meiji Restoration. In the field of governance support, Japan has supported the development of legal systems and the capacity building of local administrations in full-fledged manner, utilizing such experience, and based on the global trend on market economy and democratization/decentralization since 1990s. In the area of legal system development, support is provided based on the "Basic Policies on Legal Technical Assistance" (revised in May 2013).

As for the "realization of a peaceful and secure society," Japan has comprehensively coped with various factors of insecurity and conflicts, such as poverty, while dealing with the conflict prevention, emergency humanitarian assistance during conflict, and seamless peacebuilding from emergency humanitarian assistance, to restoration / reconstruction and development in a post-conflict stage. Japan also conducts activities such as humanitarian assistance including support for refugees and IDPs, restoration of social / human capitals and governance based on confidence between the government and the people, and the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances.

(3) JICA's strength

JICA has supported the improvement of governance, capitalizing on its strength in

human resource development on civil servant which leads to the organizational capacity building of national and local administrations, referring to Japan's own experiences in the past. JICA also has its advantage on participatory planning and implementation approach as well as improvement of accountability on local development, based on collaboration between administrations and residents in Japan.

Regarding legal system development, JICA takes a co-creation type of approach, where law practitioners and administrative officials such as court judges, prosecutors, and attorneys are dispatched as long-term experts and work together with stakeholders in the partner country. In addition, ministries concerned including the Ministry of Justice, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and scholars within Japan form advisory groups to provide support to the experts on the ground. This is a great advantage in terms of providing fine-tuned support to and building confidence with the partner countries.

In the field of peacebuilding, JICA utilizes its experiences and networks as a development organization, in order to create a society where the occurrence and recurrence of conflicts are prevented in mid- to long-term perspectives. With deliberate consideration on target field of cooperation, beneficiaries, and the implementation period, based on analysis on the causes and effects of the conflict, JICA has focused on building the basic government capacities including the restoration of human resources lost in the conflict, reconstruction of society including infrastructure restoration / rehabilitation, and the support of self-help and mutual-help in the community. Especially "support for the improvement of administration capacity after the conflict," "support for the social integration of the community," and "support for the host community in refugee influx context" are implemented, based on sufficient discussions with the recipient country. Good reputation is received from the government and residents of the recipient countries in terms of sustainability.

2. Priority targets

Goal 16 has 12 targets. Based on Japanese government policy and the past experiences and advantages of JICA's cooperation in this field, efforts are provided to contribute actively to the following targets, by ensuring human security and realizing quality growth.

16. 1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
16. 3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

16. 5   Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

16. 6   Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

16. 7   Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

16.10   Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

16. a   Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

16. b   Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

3.   Priority efforts to achieve the goals

In order to realize sustainable development along with the concept of "no one will be left behind" in a peaceful and inclusive society, it is essential that the rights of every individual are guaranteed, that people are allowed to be engaged in socioeconomic activities without worries, and that the society is working fairly and stably. In order to reinforce the foundation for such development, JICA promotes sharing of universal values including freedom, democracy, respect of basic human rights, the rule of law, and gender equality, and provides support for realizing a fair, inclusive, peaceful, stable and safe society.

(1) Realizing a peaceful and inclusive society

A peaceful and inclusive society means a sound and stable state/society based on democratic governance and the rule of law. Aiming to realize this, JICA implements support for legal system development including drafting and supporting the application of civil and economic laws, while taking into account the cultural and social background of the target countries. JICA also supports strengthening the function of public broadcast stations to contribute to sharing of fair, neutral and accurate information and to ensuring public access to information. In addition, JICA also supports the realization of good governance and the promotion of democratization, including the reinforcement of corruption-free national and local administration with accountability.

- Reinforcement of the rule of law: Support drafting of various laws and regulations, and improving the practical operations and building capacity related to lawmaking and justice
- Promotion of democratic governance: Strengthening the function of public broadcasting stations, capacity building of electoral management , parliament

and　police agencies
- ○ Reinforcing fair and accountable administrative base: Reinforcing the civil servant system and human resources development contributing to fair and accountable administration
- ○ Developing capacity of local administration: Strengthening capacity of participatory planning and implementation of local development projects that are inclusive and responsive to the peoples' needs

(2) Ensuring peace, stability and safety

In order to contribute to the stabilization of society through the reconstruction of society and restoration of people's life which were damaged by conflicts, and to promote the co-existence between refugees/IDPs and host communities, taking into account inclusiveness (including the protection of and participation of women, ethnic minorities, and socially vulnerable groups), transparency and equality, JICA conducts restoration / reconstruction of social and human capitals, improvement of basic social services and the capacity building of government institutions (especially local administrative institutions), promotion of income generation, and comprehensive support for refugee hosting countries and self-help on refugees.

Further, in order to establish a peaceful and safe society, JICA supports strengthening functions of law enforcement institutions (including police and coast guard institutions) in charge of maintaining and ensuring security, and institutions to clear landmines and unexploded ordnances, while respecting the gender equality and democratic and efficient approaches.
- ○ Building a resilient state: Realizing an inclusive and functional government and co-existing society, and formulating confidence between the government and the people
- ○ Supporting receiving capacities in refugee hosting countries as well as realizing self-help on refugees
- ○ Supporting an establishment of fair security-enforcing and law-enforcing functions
- ○ Reinforcing capacities of clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances