

(Anniversary special)

United Nations Day

Creating a peaceful and just world

ANTONIO GUTERRES
SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE UNITED NATIONS

Our world faces many grave challenges. Widening conflicts and inequality. Extreme weather and deadly intolerance. Security threats — including nuclear weapons. We have the tools and wealth to overcome these challenges. All we need is

the will. The world's problems transcend borders. We have to transcend our differences to transform our future. When we achieve human rights and human dignity for all people — they will build a peaceful, sustainable and just world. On United Nations Day, let us, "We the Peoples," make this vision a reality. Thank you. Shokran. Xie Xie. Merci. Spasibo. Gracias. Obrigado.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
UN PHOTO/ MARK GARTEN



SDGs, justice and female leaders

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Recently, U.N. Information Centre Director Kaoru Nemoto had the chance to meet Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa. Nemoto asked about Kamikawa's expectations toward the U.N., especially in relation to the upcoming 14th U.N. Crime Congress to be held in Japan in 2020. The two also exchanged views on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and crime prevention, as well as female leadership in Japan. The summary of the dialogue is below.



Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa (left) and U.N. Information Centre Director Kaoru Nemoto discussed the Sustainable Development Goals and other issues at the Justice Ministry in Chiyoda Ward on Sept. 27.
YOSHIKI MIURA

Nemoto: I understand you have maintained a keen interest in the U.N. over the years.

Kamikawa: Yes. The U.N. is a symbol of global societal cooperation. Many U.N. offices are located in the U.N. University building in Shibuya. I find great meaning in its related organizations collaborating within the same U.N. building in Japan, especially in the areas of public outreach.

Nemoto: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), comprised of 17 goals, urge universal action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. How do you personally feel about the SDGs?

Kamikawa: I originally became aware of the SDGs when I learned about the Inuit people living in the Arctic Circle. Being where they are, they are severely affected by global warming. Mother Earth is something we have borrowed from the future, and we should have an open way of thinking about what is happening to it as a direct issue involving us, instead of something distant or unrelated to us. Such understanding is also crucial among government institutions for acting meaningfully toward the future, coordinating with the private sector and rallying support from various partners.

I am determined to tackle the issue of crime prevention from the viewpoint that children are the shared assets of all human-

kind. To this end, we must build a safe and secure society ruled by law. Legal infrastructure is an important base that should be accessible to anybody, and the ground must be cultivated that enables each person to return to society. We should prevent crime according to this idea, and this stance is in sync with the SDGs. By December, the ministry plans to draw up a considered and comprehensive basic plan to prevent recidivism, involving both government organizations and society.

Nemoto: What initiatives have you taken as justice minister in engaging private citizens in your field?

Kamikawa: In Japan, we have a long history of public collaboration to prevent crime and encourage societal re-entry. Today, we have as many as 4,500 youth volunteers, who specialize in supporting juvenile offenders rehabilitation in society. They stand by, listen and help tackle the respective confronting issues. Furthermore, we have around 14,000 Human Rights Volunteers who have been making painstaking efforts for many days, months and years to protect human rights. Such all-out efforts of the ministry, society and citizens organically work to prevent poverty and crime.

Nemoto: During your first term as justice minister from Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2015, you were successful in bringing the 14th U.N. Crime Congress to Japan in 2020.

Kamikawa: My repeated appointment

as justice minister has allowed me to think and act deeper as a legal administration professional. By winning the bid to host the congress, I thought Japan would gain the great opportunity to shape its ideal profile toward the future. My aim is for us to scrutinize on the strengths and weaknesses of our nation at this meaningful event that brings together experts in this area. In that context, I would like to continue calling for and encouraging the active participation of all those involved.

Nemoto: Turning to the issue of female leaders, Japan still has a very limited number of them, especially in the political arena. What can be done to improve the situation?

Kamikawa: Above all, I think an overall bottom-up action is required. Japanese women tend to have a resistance against being involved in politics, and the Diet — our policy-forming platform — remains a faraway realm for each person. The ratio of female members in the House of Representatives is less than 10 percent, and the World Economic Forum positions Japan's gender gap among the world's 144 countries at 111th.

Even so, we find women from top-ranking countries such as Finland share much the same issues as Japanese women. Such a situation provides us some relief and encouragement that we can overcome the situation and improve toward the future.

Today, a revitalized and responsive U.N.

DAVID M. MALONE
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Anniversaries always present an opportunity to look back. But today, as we commemorate the establishment of the United Nations on Oct. 24, 1945, we must not focus solely on past lessons and progress.

We must also consider the potential of a U.N. that is being revitalized to respond to a world vastly different than it was 72 years ago.

The world now faces myriad problems, from climate change, conflict and terrorism to migration, rapid urbanization and growing inequality. The current pace of global change, as well as the interlinked challenges it presents, is unprecedented.

As such, the U.N.'s response and commitment to peace and sustainable development must be equally swift and wide-ranging.

U.N.-supported progress to date has been extraordinary. Since 1990, extreme poverty rates have been cut by more than half, maternal mortality rates have declined by 45 percent, and over 2 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation.

But the scale and persistence of global problems and the perceived inefficiency of the U.N.'s response too often eclipse these successes. Seemingly intractable conflicts, like the one in Syria, protracted humanitarian emergencies and extreme poverty affecting roughly 700 million people worldwide are draining diplomacy and budgets to levels that exhaust faith in U.N. processes.

Since taking office in January, however, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has begun to usher in an era of systemic U.N. reform. By emphasizing action over procedure, and people over protocol, he is helping the U.N. stimulate a human-centered approach that aims to eschew bureaucracy in favor of flexibility and accountability.

One aspect of the U.N.'s revitalization is an uncompromising commitment to gender parity. Ensuring that more women are recruited at all levels of the U.N. is essential for the organization's future success. In my role as rector of the United Nations University (UNU), I not only welcome this effort, but am

also committed to UNU being a leading example of this organizational change.

UNU not only strives to provide balanced and equal opportunities in its employment practices and policies, but also seeks to ensure that its activities — including research, teaching, capacity development and communication — incorporate a gender perspective and promote gender equality.

This equality is the foundation of continued human progress, and will be the force for change as U.N. member states implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — adopted two years ago by world leaders as a framework to end poverty, safeguard the planet and achieve prosperity for all.

The SDGs, however, will require much more coordination and cooperation to speed their implementation, which after two years, is already too slow to achieve targets by 2030.

A considerable barrier to SDG progress is access to authoritative data to help guide the U.N., its partners, governments and local communities to the solutions that will most effectively reach vulner-

able populations.

UNU is well-placed in the U.N. family to help overcome this hurdle. With a global research network that covers every SDG topic, UNU contributes vital knowledge to U.N. agencies, so that their global development and peacekeeping efforts are rooted in sound policy. UNU's work would be impossible without the continuing support from the government of Japan, which provides crucial financial backing and graciously hosts our headquarters in Tokyo. For more than 60 years, Japan has been a committed member of the U.N., and the second-largest contributor to the U.N. budget for the past three decades.

I warmly thank Japan for its leadership and dedication to the U.N., its peacekeeping efforts, humanitarian response and role in global governance. This dedication is a model for what it will require for U.N. member states to cooperate and meet the rapidly evolving demands of the coming decades.

But even more importantly, the U.N.'s current efforts to revitalize the organization should provide renewed agility to respond to member state needs and the ability to shape global progress.

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Toward a nonviolent, sustainable and peaceful world



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on the 72nd anniversary of its founding
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Illustration: Maasa Ota

Yamatotake's Eastern Expedition and Princess Oto-Tachibana

During the reign of Woshirowake (Emperor Keiko), news arrived of a Yemishi uprising in the east. Prince Yamatotake, who had already defeated the Kumaso rebels in the far west, was sent to quell the revolt. Woshirowake's ally in the east was Tachibana Motohiko, whose castle stood on the Sagami Plain (now in Kanagawa Prefecture). The rebels surrounded the castle and set it on fire, but Yamatotake, observing from afar, sent his army in a two-pronged attack to vanquish the enemy. When the victory was complete, the prince's consort Oto-Tachibana, daughter of Motohiko, raced out of the castle to greet Yamatotake with tears of joy. Later, when Yamatotake's ship was caught in a storm, Oto-Tachibana prayed to the heavens before throwing herself into the sea in a bid to calm the waves. Before long, the storm abated and the ship could reach land. On his journey home, Yamatotake looked out to sea from a mountain pass, weeping as he recited a poem Oto-Tachibana had composed:

Sanezane shi moyuru hi no tohishi kimi wa mo
Sagamu no ono ni honaka ni tachite

"My dear lord, I longed for your safety as I went amid burning flames on the plain of Sagami!"



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Beyond the Boundaries











We Are Beginning the Next Era.

The Oji Group has survived various changes in eras during its 140-year history. Today, global-scale changes in the economic climate have once again prompted us to make structural reforms in preparation for the next era. With an open mind, free of conventional constraints and preconceived notions, we are promoting further globalization, developing high value-added products, cultivating new resources and producing products that satisfy lifestyle and industrial needs through the customer-in approach, as we embark on a new journey into the future.

