

**Statement by His Excellency Yoichi Nakashima**

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Yemen**

**At the Pledging Event for the Inaugural Yemen Maritime Security Partnership (YMSP) Conference**

**September 16, 2025**

**I would like to thank Mr. President and Madam President for giving me the floor.**

I would like to begin by commending the strong commitment shown by the Government of Yemen to rebuilding the Yemeni Coast Guard (YCG). We also commend the leadership demonstrated by the governments of the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in mobilizing essential international support on this matter and for their initiative to convene this important conference today.

Yemen enjoys a strategic location at the crossroads of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, with an extensive coastline. Its stability is closely linked to the safety of vital commercial sea lanes for the entire world, including Japan. Therefore, the Yemeni Coast Guard must continue to play its pivotal role in maintaining maritime security in this region, which suffers from multiple maritime crimes such as smuggling, piracy, and human trafficking. This requires enhancing the effectiveness of the Yemeni Coast Guard in law enforcement.

**Mr. President, Madam President,**

As a long-standing partner, Japan has provided and continues to provide support to the Government of Yemen in its tireless efforts to develop the capabilities of the Yemeni Coast Guard. This support is fully aligned with Japan's global initiative to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" through the promotion of the rule of law and freedom of navigation and trade.

For example, since 2008, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has trained Yemeni Coast Guard officers in various fields such as maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and maritime disaster prevention. These trainings have involved Japanese Coast Guard personnel, allowing Yemeni participants to gain direct knowledge and experience.

In addition to JICA's training, Japan, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), trained Yemeni Coast Guard personnel on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) at the Alexandria Naval Base in Egypt this summer. UNODC is also currently conducting marine engineering training for the Yemeni Coast Guard in Yemen, with a focus on repairing patrol boats using spare parts.

On this auspicious occasion, it is worth mentioning that Japan adopts a regional approach to enhance maritime security in this area. Among its significant contributions in this regard is the establishment of the Djibouti Regional Training Center for Maritime Security, aimed at consolidating the Djibouti Code of Conduct among stakeholders in this vital region. Additionally, JICA has provided technical and financial assistance to strengthen the capabilities of the Djibouti Coast Guard since 2013. Therefore, benefiting from these experiences and achievements in Djibouti could be a worthwhile idea to explore in the context of developing the capabilities of the Yemeni Coast Guard.

**Mr. President, Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,**

Japan remains committed to contributing alongside all partners in the collective efforts to enhance maritime security in the region, as we have done for many years in close cooperation with the Government of Yemen.

**Thank you very much.**