

President Mori' s Speech in United Nations General Assembly for the Olympic Truce Resolution (December 9, 2019)

**【Opening】**

I would like to introduce the draft Resolution A/74/L.18, entitled “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal”, which the Government of Japan submitted. Let me start by expressing my sincere gratitude to United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Guterres and United Nations Members for giving us this opportunity.

**【Pope Francis/ Ms. Greta Thunberg/ Objectives of the Olympic Truce】**

His Holiness Pope Francis visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan just 2 weeks ago and delivered a clear message, “a world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary.” The message truly resonated with the audience. The atomic bomb was tragically dropped and exploded over Nagasaki, where people had kept the Christian faith for 250 years during the Edo period although it was prohibited. That history has led some Japanese people to feel that their prayers for peace may go unanswered. However, the pope' s message has lit our future with hope.

We have seen multiple threats to peace including wars in the world. The impassioned speech on global warming by Swedish climate activist, Ms. Greta Thunberg, shocked and impressed people around the world including me. My first speech at the UN General Assembly was presented at the Millennium Summit held in 2000. Meanwhile, as the then Prime Minister of Japan, I established “Human Security” as one of the pillars of Japanese diplomacy calling for reinforcement of the UN functions. Japan established an “International Committee on Human Security,” which was delegated by the then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, and advocated the concept of a human-centered approach to the world. At the UN High-level Event on Climate Change in 2007, I stated that “Climate change is a challenge deeply related to the goal of achieving human security for all, especially the poor and vulnerable,” while highlighting the importance of providing assistance to developing countries. The issue of ‘infectious diseases’ was raised for the first time as one of the main topics on the agenda for the Kyushu-Okinawa G8

Summit held in July 2000, where I led the debate as a chairperson of the Summit. In 2001, I attended the High-Level Review at the UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS and had candid dialogues with the current UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres. Consequently, support was gained for the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Despite years of my effort to contribute to world peace and prosperity, I have still faced a harsh reality that always made me accept my inadequacy. However, I shall never give up on a world of peace and prosperity, though I know how difficult it is to realize them. The Olympic Truce resolution makes me aware that I am not the only one. It is the embodiment of the shared hope of people across the world that we can realize a world with no conflicts at least during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and that we can live together by fostering mutual understanding and respect with “unity in diversity.”

**【Peace and “Human Security” / Ms. Sadako Ogata】**

I am truly humbled to have the 5th opportunity to give a speech at the United Nations today. I have always kept “Human Security” and my prayers for world peace and prosperity in mind while on this stage. Especially today, I feel that the former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ms. Sadako Ogata, who regretfully passed away in October, is strongly backing me. Ms. Ogata was the Special Advisor of the Organising Committee for the Tokyo 2020 Games. She was also my true friend, who accompanied me when I visited the African continent in 2001 for the first time as the Prime Minister of Japan, and she led me and my party inside the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was the then Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, also joined me for entire trip. Prime Minister Abe and I have committed ourselves to continue to work for world peace and prosperity with the cherished aspiration of the late Sadako Ogata.

I was extremely impressed by IOC President Dr. Bach’s compelling thoughts for world peace while we discussed the Tokyo 2020 Games many times. Dr. Bach has repeatedly told Prime Minister Abe and me that he thinks the initiative for a global Olympic Truce is precious. We share the same wish. Today, I hope to convey it to the entire world, as a

bigger circle, through the Members of this UN General Assembly.

**【The ideal of the Olympic Truce/ Sport for Tomorrow/ Host Town Project】**

Peace is the original concept of Olympism. The ancient Greeks competed in the Olympics 2,800 years ago as a replacement for conflicts, and that idea is now the heart of the Olympic Truce. I believe that it is our mission to promote and to pass on Olympism to future generations.

I experienced the Tokyo 1964 Games when I was 27 years old. Looking back, I remember that I deeply felt and appreciated the peace that allowed athletes of different countries to gather together to celebrate the Games. The Tokyo 1964 Olympic and Paralympic Games was one of the symbols of recovery from the World War II for the Japanese people and it showcased to the world how Japan recovered from a burnt-down land in just 19 years after the war. It also gave positive energy to the Japanese people and led to dramatic economic growth. I am delighted that the second Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will be held in the same city of Tokyo in 2020, will showcase Japan's peaceful and fully matured cities to the world, as well as our recovery efforts in the disaster-affected Tohoku area. At the same time, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the help and support that we have received from all over the world after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. We hope that our recovery efforts can give courage to those in Japan and throughout the world who have suffered the severe consequences of natural disasters. Giving courage to one another will strengthen us all to stand up together.

Having realized the preciousness of peace through the Olympics and Paralympics, Japan wishes to let everyone in the world appreciate peace through sports. To that end, we have implemented an international contribution programme, "Sport for Tomorrow," to provide opportunities for interacting with people from different countries. We are enhancing the development of human resources through sports by setting a target of over 10 million people to be involved in more than 100 countries towards 2020. We have just reached the goal of 10 million people. Many Japanese youths are also involved in the programme.

Since peace is built on trust and mutual understanding among people, the Tokyo 2020 Games will provide an opportunity for heart-warming

grassroots communication between athletes of the participating countries or regions and residents of local communities in Japan. Through the “Host Town Project,” a brand-new initiative in the world, the Tokyo 2020 Games will be heart-warming as residents of local communities cheer for athletes from all over the world.

**【Actions toward a sustainable world/ SGDs】**

The main theme of the Tokyo 2020 Games is “Unity in Diversity.”

World peace could be realized by all the people around the world living together.

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee practiced “Unity in Diversity” by becoming the first organising committee in history to operate the Olympic and Paralympic Games through one organization. The Tokyo 2020 Games intends to demonstrate the remarkable benefit of “Unity in Diversity.” Furthermore, Tokyo will be the first city to host the Summer Paralympic Games two times.

From the viewpoint of “Unity in Diversity” and how to live together on our precious earth, the Tokyo 2020 Games is also committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Aiming to contribute to the SDGs set by the United Nations, we have made the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic medals with recycled metals extracted from small electronic devices that are no longer in use such as old mobile phones. The Olympic torch relay will start on March 26<sup>th</sup> next year. Part of the materials used in the Olympic and Paralympic torches, is from recycled aluminum originally used in the construction of prefabricated housing units following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The Victory Ceremony Podiums will be made with recycled plastic as well as ocean plastic waste.

Through such pioneering efforts, we hope that the Tokyo 2020 Games will be the light that will illuminate the way to building a sustainable world, including SGDs.

**【The Rugby World Cup, the Prayer for Peace and Closing】**

The Rugby World Cup 2019 hosted by Japan this fall was the first World Cup to be held outside the Rugby developed countries. World Rugby Chairman, Sir Bill Beaumont, appreciated the remarkable success of the

games as the greatest Rugby World Cup. TV viewership peaked at 53.7% of the Japanese population. The number of visitors to the 16 Fanzones across Japan reached a new record, approximately 1.13 million people. Close communication at 55 team camps in 61 municipalities had the great fortune to further world peace as well as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games next year. We will make the most of the successful experience of the Rugby World Cup for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

What is marvelous about sports is, I think, the delight in achieving the unachievable and overcoming challenging difficulties. Now, at the age of 82, this may be my last opportunity to stand before the United Nations General Assembly. What I have learned through sports has been sustaining in my political life. By making the impossible possible in sports, our hope is that wars will disappear from the globe forever, and not only during the Olympic Games. If leaders are courageous enough to openly share their opinions, no matter how difficult it may be, agreements could replace fighting. Now, the international situation has become tenser. Small countries always suffer from confrontation between large countries. I cannot ignore the suffering of the vulnerable. Therefore, I now want to repeat the prayer for peace and prosperity in the world, believing that "Sport has the power to change the world and our future," as the Tokyo 2020 Games Vision says.

I am delighted to inform all of you that today 186 Member States supported the Olympic Truce Resolution for the Tokyo 2020 Games. I would like to express my gratitude to the United Nations General Assembly for this opportunity and ask for its support in passing the draft resolution.