

**Opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Toshiya Hoshino  
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Prepared for delivery at Women CSO-Led Panel Discussion  
“Amplifying Women’s Voices Towards Sustainable Peace”  
during the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace  
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I would like to welcome all of you and thank you for joining us this morning.

I would particularly like to thank the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders for taking lead of organizing this important panel. The Permanent Mission of Japan is honored to cosponsor this event, along with the Permanent Missions of Liberia and Canada, the PBSO and UN Women.

When it comes to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, Japan has been and will continue to be a strong supporter of civil society organizations, including local women’s organizations in the grassroots level.

Japan is particularly proud of partnering with local organizations where they are needed most, through UN Women’s projects in Africa, the Middle-East and South-east Asia.

Today’s conflict resolutions are increasingly more complex than those in the past, with diverse actors and complicated peace processes.

I believe, in this vein, one of the keys for conflict resolution is ensuring “inclusivity”. To ensure inclusivity, civil society organizations are playing a prominent role, in that they know the most about what is happening and what is most needed for the people on the ground.

Indeed, studies show that the more we involve civil society organizations, including women’s organizations, in peace processes, the more we ensure the sustainability of peace on the ground.

Here, the important role of Member States and the UN system is to politically and financially support the activities of civil society organizations. Furthermore, we have to ensure that their voices are heard and their activities reflected in the core part of the decision and policy making process. In this respect, I think today’s event is of particular importance.

We are looking forward to hearing from civil society organizations, including local women’s organizations, and Japan, for its part, is eager to learn more from them as we design and develop our own policies for women’s empowerment and sustaining peace.

Thank you very much.