



17 December 2008

**Statement by Mrs. Valerie Cliff, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kuwait  
On the Occasion of the Completion of Mission of the Japanese Self Defence Forces in Iraq**

Your Excellency Mr. Ryota Takeda, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defence  
Your Excellency Ambassador Masatoshi Muto,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in today's ceremony on behalf of the United Nations to commemorate with honor and distinction the completion of mission of the Japanese Self Defence Forces in Iraq.

On this occasion, the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, has asked that I deliver this statement on his behalf. I will now read aloud the Secretary General's statement addressed to His Excellency Mr. Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Japan for its important contribution for providing airlift services by the Japanese Self Defence Forces on a pro-bono basis in support of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

Since 2006, the support of your country has made it possible for UNAMI to improve its logistical capabilities in Iraq. Given the challenging operational environment, the weekly dedicated airlift services provided by the Government of Japan became an important and reliable means of deploying personnel and transporting cargo from Kuwait to United Nations offices in Baghdad and Erbil. Consequently, UNAMI and United Nations agencies, programmes, and funds have been able to expand their activities in Iraq.

I would like to thank the Government of Japan for its support in enabling the United Nations to carry out its mandate under Security Council resolutions 1770 of 2007 and 1830 of 2008 to assist the people and Government of Iraq. I hope the Government of Japan will continue to support our efforts in Iraq through other means. I firmly believe that together with the Government of Japan, and the wider international community, we can help Iraq build a prosperous and peaceful nation." Signed - Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General.

I have also been requested by the Special Representative of the Secretary General in Iraq, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, to convey the mission's gratitude to the Government of Japan and to extend his regrets for not being able to be here in person to share this occasion with you. The services that the Japanese Self Defence Forces provided to UNAMI were greatly appreciated by all parties, and their presence and support will be greatly missed.



***Office of the Resident Coordinator  
in the State of Kuwait***

**مكتب المنسق المقيم  
في دولة الكويت**

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in today's ceremony on behalf of the United Nations and I extend my sincere gratitude to you all.

Thank you