

2025 年度の日本・中国・韓国の国連協会会長会議が京都で開催されました。



2025年日中韓国連 協会会長会議 京都

2025年8月25-27日

日本・中国・韓国の国連協会会長による年次会合が、国連創設 80 周年を記念し、2025 年 8 月 25 日から 27 日にかけて京都オークラ ホテルにて開催された。2024 年未来サミットで採択された「未来のための協定」の精神に基づき多国間協力を推進する方策を協議するため、本年次会合は二部構成で実施され、第一部では三つのテーマ別討論セッションが行われ、第二部では三つの二国間協議が実施された。

2024 年度日中韓国連協会会長会議報告書へ

Summary Report
of
The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Presidents of UN Associations of
Japan, China and Republic of Korea
25-27 August 2025
Kyoto, Japan



The annual meeting of the presidents of UN associations of Japan, China and Republic of Korea was held in the meeting room, “Edinburg,” on 3rd floor of Hotel Okura Kyoto from 25 to 27 August 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and to discuss ways to advance multilateral cooperation in the spirit of the Pact for the Future adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future. The annual meeting consisted of two parts: the first part comprised of three thematic discussion sessions and the second part consisted of three bilateral consultations.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the summary report of the meeting was signed by three heads of the delegation, Mr. AKASHI Yasushi, Acting President of UNA-Japan, Ms. HU Wenli, Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China, and Dr. Kwaak YoungHoon, President of UNA-ROK. The document affirmed that the United Nations remained indispensable for peace, prosperity and sustainability of humanity at this era of uncertainty. It then underscored the urgent need to strengthen multilateralism and revitalize the UN system to effectively address today’s complex global challenges, including unilateralism, protectionism, climate change,

pandemics, growing inequalities, and threats to peace and security.

In the thematic discussions, the participants recognized the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN system based on consensus in line with the Pact for the Future and the UN 80 Initiative. They also considered it important to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and mobilizing collective efforts. They also found the necessity of reforming the United Nations to make it more representative, and effective, and strengthening the roles of the Security Council, General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission. They took note of the imperativeness of establishing principles and frameworks for digital and artificial intelligence governance with the UN as the major channel to create an inclusive, open, sustainable, equitable and reliable digital and intelligent future. The delegations note also, as representing a civil society arrangement, reaffirmed the value of people-to-people exchange and the active engagement of youth in fostering trust, dialogue, and regional cooperation among our three countries. Finally, they expressed their commitment to continue working together and with our partners in other regions, to uphold the principles of the UN Charter and to promote multilateralism, thereby regaining public trust in multilateralism and contributing to building a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

August 26 (Tuesday)

9:00 Opening Session

Mr. AKASHI Yasushi, Vice-President of UNA-Japan

At the outset, President, ai of UN Association of Japan, Mr. Akashi paid heartfelt tribute to the late Dr. Sen Genshitsu, former President of UNA-Japan. Dr. Sen, renowned as a grand master of the tea ceremony, infused into international dialogue the spirit of peace, harmony, and respect. His cultural and philosophical contributions enriched global understanding and will continue to inspire future generations.

Reflecting on the origins of this trilateral process, Mr. Akashi recalled the 2009 WFUNA meeting in Seoul, which inspired him to propose more frequent regional dialogues among Japan, China, and Korea. With Dr. Sen's encouragement and the full support of colleagues in Beijing and Seoul, the first sub-regional gathering was convened near Tokyo the following year. Since then, the tradition has continued annually, with interruptions only during the COVID-19

pandemic. Importantly, the initiative was later enriched by the inclusion of a Youth Forum, bringing sixty energetic young participants from the three countries.

Japan has often hosted these meetings in Tokyo, but Mr. Akashi expressed satisfaction that other cities such as Sapporo and Fukuoka were also chosen, allowing visiting colleagues to enjoy diverse local cultures and hospitality. He noted that Kyoto, with its wealth of cultural, historical, and religious sites, offers participants an opportunity not only for meaningful dialogue but also for reflection and shared experiences across borders.

Concluding, Mr. Akashi encouraged participants to fully engage in discussions while also enjoying Kyoto's rich heritage, reinforcing bonds of friendship and mutual understanding across the three nations.

Ms. HU Wenli, Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China said...

Mr. KWAAK Young Hoon, President of UNA-ROK

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations' founding, and we gather for our 13th UN Association Trilateral meeting in Kyoto. On behalf of the United Nations Association of the Republic of Korea, I extend sincere appreciation to our Japanese hosts for their hospitality in this historic city.

I regard this 13th meeting as the beginning of a new 12-year cycle in our trilateral tradition. In this year of new beginnings, I hope to see an action plan for CACA—the Common Aspiration for Creative Advancement—which our three countries co-signed at Seoul Olympeace Park last year. Unlike territorial bloc initiatives, MAGA and MEGA, CACA represents a vision embracing our entire planet.

Let me share a historical example of successful action planning. On September 21, 1990, I was invited to Beijing during the Asian Games. Deng Xiaoping, though unable to attend due to illness, sent three questions through President Yang Shangkun: his thoughts on the "black cat, white cat" approach, teaching English to Chinese students, and China's "First the East, then the West" development strategy.

My response was simple: for the first two questions, "just act and do it." For the third, inspired by Japan's 1964 Tokyo Olympics, 1970 Osaka Expo, and the Shinkansen connection, and my successful implementation for the planning for 1988 Seoul Olympiad, and 1993 Daejeon EXPO, I recommended Beijing host the Olympics and Shanghai the World Expo. For the westward

strategy, I proposed developing from Lianyungang Yellow Sea port city to Urumqi Xinjiang along the ancient Silk Road.

These ideas became reality: the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2010 Shanghai Expo, and today's Belt and Road Initiative in 2013 all trace back to that 1990 conversation.

Why share this example? I hope at our 13th Kyoto meeting; we develop a concrete action plan for CACA. Unlike bloc-oriented approaches, our common aspiration should serve all humanity and keep our planet sustainable.

As I conclude, I believe all three countries share the saying "朋友有信"—among friends, there is trust. Couldn't we work together to stop the climate crisis and save our endangered planet?

Good relationships are built on trust. It's time our three countries trust each other for the world.

No secrets! No lies!

Thank you.

9:30 ~ Morning Symposium Sessions

Each session was chaired by one of the head delegates of three UN Associations. After the presentation, a panel commentator from each country commented on the presentation in five minutes, followed by free discussion by the entire participants.

Session 1: Pact for the Future Part I: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Beyond

Chair: Ambassador AKASHI Yasushi, UNA-Japan

9:30 Presentation by Ambassador NAKAMURA Ryo, Assistant Minister/Director General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10:10 Discussion

Panel Commentators

Dr. XUE Lei, UNA-China

Dr. IKEGAMI Kiyoko, UNA-Japan

Amb. LEE Taeho, UNA-ROK

10:50 -- 11:00 break time

Keynote Presentation

Ambassador RYO NAKAMURA (Japan, MOFA Assistant Minister/Director-General for Global Issues) delivered the opening presentation, emphasizing four key pillars: multilateralism, solidarity, action-oriented approaches, and regional cooperation in addressing current challenges to international cooperation.

Global Political Landscape and Challenges

The presentation highlighted significant shifts in the global political economy, particularly the rise of the "Global South." Goldman Sachs projections show that by 2040, the share of G7 and major developed countries in the world economy will drastically shrink to one-third, while emerging economies, particularly China, experience rapid growth from 2000 to 2040.

Ambassador Nakamura identified critical challenges facing multilateral cooperation:

- **Political headwinds:** Electoral trends across democracies reflect growing skepticism toward international cooperation and aid, necessitating clearer articulation of national interest linkages to multilateralism
- **Financing constraints:** Diminishing capacity of industrialized countries to expand Official Development Assistance (ODA), requiring leverage of private finance and broadening of the donor base
- **Governance misalignment:** Legacy categorizations of developed/developing countries no longer align with current economic realities, particularly affecting climate finance and obligations

SDGs Implementation Framework

The SDGs framework has facilitated the formulation of several key international agreements:

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement
- Legally binding Plastic Pollution Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity
- WHO Pandemic Agreement (adopted May 2025 after extensive North-South negotiations)

The WHO Pandemic Agreement exemplified challenges in international cooperation, with negotiations addressing discrepancies between North and South regarding technology transfer and financial support for pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR).

Future Timeline and Priorities

Japan's approach focuses on balanced, inclusive rulemaking enabling broad participation. Key

timeline milestones include:

- Japan's 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) - July 2025
- SDGs Summit - September 2027
- Post-SDGs framework adoption - 2030

Priority areas identified in the Pact for the Future trajectory include sustainable development financing, climate sustainability, post-2030 SDG framework, peace and security, science/technology/innovation including AI, youth engagement, and global governance reform.

Trilateral Perspectives

China (Dr. XUE Lei, UNA-China)

China emphasized the SDGs' role in minimizing economic inequality and promoting long-term development. Key observations included:

- **Development challenges:** SDG progress is lagging with poverty reduction gains eroding and income disparities widening, particularly affecting middle- and low-income groups amid inflation and slow wage growth
- **Financing pressures:** Development finance faces competition from rising humanitarian emergencies, Ukraine-related prioritization in International Financial Institutions, and domestic constraints in donor countries
- **Energy transition success:** China's surge in electricity demand has been managed alongside rapid growth in renewables, electric vehicles, and storage, potentially enabling an early carbon peak by end-2025

Japan (Prof. IKEGAMI Kiyoko, UNA-Japan)

Japan highlighted successful domestic SDG mainstreaming:

- **Private sector engagement:** Strong uptake through initiatives like Keidanren's widespread SDG badges, making goals tangible to the public
- **Civil society innovation:** Educational games in Hokkaido and community-level initiatives broaden public engagement
- **Government incentives:** National SDG awards catalyze multi-sector participation
- **Mindset evolution:** "Think globally, act locally" has evolved to "Think and act globally," with growing recognition that UN-framed goals require domestic action

Japan's 2024 VNR provided candid assessment of strengths and gaps, particularly highlighting leadership in aging-society policy responses and disaster risk reduction.

Korea (Ambassador LEE Taeho, UNA-ROK)

Korea emphasized implementation imperatives:

- **National ownership:** Integration of Pact commitments into policies and budgets, with Japan-China-Korea leadership setting implementation standards

- **Transparency:** Strengthening measurable indicators, comparable data, peer review, and member-driven reporting through robust VNR processes
- **Sustainable financing:** Matching mandates with resources through private sector participation to address declining assessed and voluntary budgets

Korea positioned effective implementation as essential for restoring trust in multilateralism, with the Pact serving as a vehicle for real change rather than mere declaration.

Common Challenges and Opportunities

Shared Regional Agenda

All three countries face similar demographic challenges of population aging and declining birth rates, presenting opportunities for multilateral cooperation through policy dialogue, research collaboration, and experience sharing.

Trilateral Leadership Potential

The convergence of perspectives revealed significant opportunities for Japan-China-Korea collaboration:

- **Post-2030 framework co-design:** Jointly developing normative baselines for the next global development agenda
- **Implementation modeling:** Demonstrating credible national integration of Pact commitments
- **Financing innovation:** Piloting blended finance vehicles leveraging each country's capital markets and industrial strengths
- **Public engagement:** Expanding civic education platforms and communicating national-interest benefits of multilateral cooperation

Key Recommendations

The session concluded with agreement on several priority actions:

1. Strengthen cross-sector dialogues involving government, civil society, and private sector
2. Leverage UN reform processes (including "UN 2.0") to align mandates with resources
3. Develop practical mechanisms for building domestic trust and expanding financing
4. Establish trilateral implementation peer-review mechanisms aligned with VNR cycles
5. Identify candidate areas for blended finance pilots in renewables, resilient infrastructure, and health security

Session 2: Pact for the Future Part II: Prospect for Reforming the United Nations and Transforming Global Governance

Chair: Ms. HU Wenli, Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China

11:00 Presentation by **Professor HASEGAWA Sukehiro, Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Timor-Leste**

11:40 Discussion

Panel commentators

Prof. Heung Soon PARK, UNA-ROK

Prof. ZHA Wen, UNA-China

Ambassador YAMAMOTO Tadamichi, UNA-Japan

Professor Sukehiro HASEGAWA focused on United Nations reform ahead of its 80th anniversary, with particular emphasis on Security Council restructuring. His presentation centered on the "Pact for the Future," a 68-page document proposing 18 transformative actions for global governance reform. The Pact identified four critical reform areas:

1. **Reinventing Multilateral Systems:** Action 41 calls for foundational transformation to create more effective, equitable, inclusive, and collaborative global governance for the 21st century.
2. **Institutional Reform and Democratization:** Actions 42 and 45 advocate for Security Council reform ensuring broader representation and limited veto power, while revitalizing the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and Peace Building Commission.
3. **Strengthening UN Systems:** Actions 46-47 focus on organizational coherence, efficiency, and bolstering human rights architecture to address emerging threats.
4. **Financial Architecture Reform:** Actions 48-54 propose sweeping changes addressing systemic inequities, mobilizing SDG funding, enabling sustainable borrowing, and exploring progress metrics beyond GDP.

While not legally binding, the Pact provided a framework for inclusive implementation approaches.

In identifying the Systemic Challenges to UN Effectiveness, the presenter explained the following.

Operational Dysfunctions

The UN faces critical structural problems:

- **Paralysis:** Security Council gridlock when conflicts involve P5 members

- **Outdated Structure:** 80-year-old framework designed for 51 countries now governing 193
- **Financial Vulnerability:** Over-dependence on few donors enables "blackmailing" through withheld payments

Geopolitical Obstacles

External factors undermining multilateral cooperation include:

- Return of "Cold War mentality" and rise of "unilateralism"
- Gap between Pact proposals and current political reality
- Domestic populism and protectionism limiting leaders' multilateral commitments
- Fundamental conflict between national interests and collective global action

Prevention Failures

Critics argue the UN bears direct responsibility for current conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza due to decades of inaction on preventive measures, though others contend even reformed structures might not have prevented these crises.

Reform Principles and Alternative Proposals

Successful reform requires:

- Upholding UN authority and central international role
- Balanced development across peace/security, development, and human rights pillars
- Prioritizing development given lagging 2030 Agenda progress
- Enhanced effectiveness through transparent, consultative processes
- Safeguarding developing world interests and representation
- Systematic coordination improvements matching mandates with resources

Additional proposals include new financial models with 50-60% equal state contributions, converting ECOSOC to an "Economic Security Council," abolishing the obsolete Trustee Council, and long-term creation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly.

Regional Cooperation and Middle Power Roles

Japan, China, and Korea are positioned as "model middle powers" crucial for championing multilateralism. Their cooperation could decisively break current reform paralysis, as middle

powers rely on predictable, accountable international platforms lacking major powers' unilateral action options.

China emerges as a potential multilateralism champion through initiatives like the Global Security Initiative and Saudi Arabia-Iran mediation efforts, though its Security Council reform position remains deliberately ambiguous.

Critical Unresolved Issues

Several fundamental challenges threaten reform prospects:

Reform Deadlock: Twelve-year Intergovernmental Negotiations remain stalled over membership categories and regional distribution, with African demands for two permanent seats creating non-negotiable positions.

National vs. Global Interests: The persistent tension between member state national priorities and collective global needs, exacerbated by geopolitical competition and domestic political pressures.

Financial and Operational Risks: Dangerous donor dependence threatens institutional stability, while systemic redundancies require comprehensive overhaul.

Strategic Incoherence: Beyond Security Council reform, broader UN transformation lacks unified approach, with fundamental disagreement over incremental versus revolutionary change.

Security Council Reform Debates

The Security Council faces severe representational imbalances:

- Asia and Africa (54 member states each) hold only three non-permanent seats each
- Africa has only three non-permanent and no permanent members seats
- Western Europe and Others Group is over-represented with three permanent seats (US, France, UK) among 29 member states and one non-permanent seats
- Latin America lacks permanent representation entirely

Member State Positions

Key negotiating groups maintain divergent positions:

- **G4 (Japan, Germany, India, Brazil):** Seeking permanent membership
- **African Union:** Demanding four additional seats (two permanent, two non-permanent)
- **CARICOM:** Advocating small island state inclusion in expanded 27-member council
- **"Uniting for Consensus" group:** Opposing new permanent seats, supporting increased non-permanent seats to 22 total

Professor Hasegawa then made a two-stage reform proposal.

Stage 1 (2025-2030): Immediate structural reform coinciding with the UN's 80th anniversary, adding 10 new seats with the following distribution:

- Africa: 3 seats
- Asia: 3 seats
- Latin America and Caribbean: 2 seats
- Western Europe: 1 seat
- Eastern Europe: 1 seat

These seats would be five-year renewable terms, held by not only member states but also such regional organizations, AU, EU and ASEAN.

Stage 2 (2030-2045): Sustainable long-term reform converting existing permanent seats into 10-year renewable terms, with General Assembly authority to refuse renewal for poor performance.

East Asian Leadership Role

The presentation emphasized how Japan, China, and Korea could break the reform deadlock through coordinated regional leadership, leveraging their combined economic power (25% of global GDP), technological capabilities, and experience in managing historical tensions.

Participant Comments and Discussion

Participants acknowledged the urgent need for Security Council reform given its inability to address Ukraine, Gaza, climate action gridlock, and AI governance gaps. However, concerns emerged about implementation feasibility:

Reform Challenges: Questions whether expanding the Security Council would harm consensus-building effectiveness; recognition that meaningful reform requires P5 support, with

China and Russia unlikely to support permanent seat elimination; African Union's demand for two permanent seats creates potential deadlock.

Member State Positions: Discussion highlighted entrenched positions in 12-year-old Intergovernmental Negotiations—G4 seeking permanent membership, African Union demanding permanent seats, Uniting for Consensus opposing new permanent seats, and China maintaining a "silent and careful" approach.

Systemic Obstacles: Participants identified external barriers including return of "Cold War mentality," rise of unilateralism, domestic political pressures from populism, and the fundamental conflict between national interests and collective global action needs.

In conclusion, Mr. Hasegawa identified the four steps for follow up actions by the UN Associations of Japan, China and ROK.

- Reactivate Japan-China-Korea scholar visits to UN headquarters
- Organize joint trilateral symposiums reaching wider audiences
- Contribute innovative ideas to the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process
- Draft an Asian version of a "second" UN Charter separate to European models

The session highlighted both the urgent necessity for UN reform and the formidable obstacles preventing meaningful progress, emphasizing the critical role of regional cooperation in breaking institutional paralysis.

12:30 Lunch at Hotel Restaurant Cafelek Court

13:30 Afternoon Symposium Sessions

Session 3: Pact for the Future Part III: Promoting Digital and AI Governance through Multilateral Cooperation

Chair: Dr. Kwaak YoungHoon - President of UNA-ROK and President of the World Citizens Organization

Presentation by **Professor MURAI Jun of Keio University, Japan** 14:30 Discussion

Panel Commentators

Attorney HWANG Cheol-Kyu, UNA-ROK

Prof. ZHOU Hui, UNA-China

Prof. HASEGAWA Sukehiro, UNA-Japan

1. **Professor Jun Murai** of Keio University, who also helps the Japanese government in the preparation of the Digital Strategy, gave the opening presentation on the issue describing the current state of the use and spread of the AI technology, challenges which our society needs to face, and the on-going deliberations on the management of its use.

Here are some of the points made.

○AI is digital data processing.

It learns from the language which we use for the internet. Asia provides the largest number of users for the internet. Hence Asia offers the largest number of “brains”. The role of Asia-Pacific is very important.

○Internet spread across the globe rapidly.

In 1995, 0.7% of the population was connected to the internet. In 2025, 75% of the population is connected to the internet. This was possible because there was no centralized control and because everyone used the same Open Global standard. Currently, the AI is managed mostly by private corporations. Public-private relationship will be important. There should not be regulations and declarations to manage AI's operation.

○However, because there are multi-stakeholders in the AI, global governance is important.

Since AI is for everyone, the government must undertake responsibilities for the necessary governance. The UN is an appropriate body for providing space for global internet management.

Global Digital Compact of the UN is a good step. It addresses the issues of:

Universal commodity

Connecting Schools and hospitals (Key role of importance for the AI)

Accessibility and Affordability

Digital skills and education

Development-oriented Approach

International Collaboration

○For AI, the digital infrastructure is important. Digital data processing, use of internet and

computers, consumes a huge amount of energy. The spread of AI is expected to lead to a rapid and enormous increase in the energy consumption.

In closing , Professor Murai enquired: “Are we willing to share the data?”

2. Comments by the three association members

(1) Mr. Hwang Choel-Kyn (UNA, Republic of Korea)

AI has social and political implications. Its potential benefit is huge and yet there could be risks. It has multinational functions by necessity.

It requires guidelines for human rights. It must be given over-sight.

It is also necessary to provide capacity building for the less developed countries.

It would be the responsibilities of the three countries of China, Japan, RoK to cooperate and work together to come up with global guidelines. There should be a strong message to highlight the necessity. The three can cooperate on issues concerning:

Human centered approach

Transparency and accountability

Peace and security

(2) Mr. Zhau Hin (UNA, China)

China considers it necessary to have a Global AI Governance Action Plan.

The UN is the most universal entity, and it should provide the international foundation for the AI governance. The UN should consolidate the global consensus.

The AI is still “young” compared to the internet. However, its impact is huge.

The UN should take the initiative. China has opted to cooperate with the UN in the area of AI governance.

(3) Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa (UNA Japan)

There is much concern and interest in the AI governance.

There is a concern as to whether the management side of the AI governance is coordinated. The UN may not have the ability to control the management side.

Digital data processing is a tool. But the AI is developing fast. Is it not the case that the AI is beginning to obtain “consciousness”? If AI can “think” it can set for itself a goal (objective) independent of those given by the humans.

(4) There were additional comments and questions regarding the risks of the AI including its use in the military field such as the risks associated with the AI controlled weapons getting out of control.

3. Final comments from Professor Jun Murai

(1) In regard to the future of the AI, Prof. Murai is optimistic.

(2) The UN should have a central role regarding the governance of the AI. But this is not an easy task as the AI is changing and growing, and as it can be used for everything.

Professor Murai values highly the UN role in organizing the Internet Forum. There are

discussions; but decisions are not required there. The AI likewise should not be centrally controlled; but provision of transparency is necessary.

- (3) Concerns about risks always arise when something new is introduced. Abuse certainly needs to be dealt with. Proper use or ethical use should be advanced. We cannot completely stop the abuse. This must be discussed and addressed. It takes time to deal with this issue. We experienced this when we were to deal with the risks of the internet. (He cited an example of placing insurance on the actions utilizing the internet.)
- (4) As to the issue of whether AI could overtake the ability of the humans, Professor Murai was optimistic saying that this is not the issue concerning technology but an issue regarding the program which the humans provide AI.

In summary, the session on Artificial Intelligence explored its foundational requirements and governance, drawing lessons from the internet's successful open and decentralized architecture. Discussions highlighted the immense infrastructure AI demands, spanning enhanced networks from subsea cables to satellites, massive computing resources, and, critically, modernized energy grids to support their significant power consumption. The need for forward-looking policy, such as Tokyo's mandate for solar panels on new homes, and even future space-based infrastructure was noted.

Healthcare was a central application focus. High-performance Research and Education Networks (RENs) were shown to be crucial for enabling cross-border innovations, such as remote surgery trials between Japan and Singapore that generate valuable "surgical intelligence" datasets for future AI development. We confronted the challenge of interoperability, exemplified by large hospitals managing hundreds of isolated systems. The proposed solution involves deploying "intelligent gateways" to securely normalize and route data, leveraging the established patient consent frameworks unique to university hospitals for ethical data sharing.

On governance, a strong consensus supported a UN-facilitated, multi-stakeholder approach, mirroring the successful model of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), to manage risks like militarization, sovereign AI competition, and controllability challenges. China presented its Global AI Governance Initiative, while Japan and Korea showcased similar legislative efforts, demonstrating regional alignment. The session concluded with a call for trilateral cooperation on AI ethics, secure health data standards, and joint capacity-building programs, with a particular focus on bridging the digital divide with Global South. Commitments were made to specific actions, including forming a joint ethics working group and designing pilot projects for hospital interoperability to translate these collaborative principles into practice.

15:15 -- 16:00 Closing Session

Prospect for Strengthening Multilateralism and the UN System in the Turbulent Era (10-15 minutes each)

Mr. AKASHI Yasushi, Vice-President of UNA-Japan

As we gather in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, it is fitting to reflect on the United Nations' remarkable 80-year journey since its birth in San Francisco with 51 member states in 1945.

The path to global cooperation traces back to 19th-century European discussions on war and peace in Vienna. Functional international bodies like ITU, WHO, UPU, and ILO emerged at the turn of the 20th century, continuing their vital work alongside governments today.

After the devastating World War I, the League of Nations was established in Geneva under the concept of universal war and peace. Though initially successful, particularly in its first decade, the League ultimately failed due to misconduct by Japan in Manchuria and Italy in Ethiopia, leading to World War II.

In February 1945, Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill agreed at Yalta to establish the United Nations. Following Roosevelt's death, President Truman presided over the UN's founding in San Francisco.

The UN's structure includes the General Assembly of all member states and the Security Council with five permanent and seven non-permanent members. However, the Cold War between Washington and Moscow significantly altered the UN's intended function. The tensions later eased under Gorbachev and Reagan, ushering in mutual confidence and substantial nuclear disarmament.

UN peacekeeping operations began in 1956 during the Suez Canal crisis through cooperation between Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and Canadian Foreign Minister Lester Pearson. These operations have since expanded globally, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean.

Membership growth from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean in the 1950s and 1960s broadened UN activities from political and security matters to economic, social, and developmental issues. Recent General Assemblies have seen developing countries calling for significant policy priority changes, including debate over cooperation between the General Assembly and Security Council.

Japan joined the UN in December 1956, relying on the United States for security while developing the world's second-largest economy until China's overtaking in 2010.

Ambassador Takahiro Shinyo has noted that the wars in Ukraine and Gaza demonstrate the UN's dysfunction, particularly the Security Council's ineffectiveness, weakening global faith in the organization.

Despite these challenges, multilateral diplomacy remains crucial, and the UN must be revitalized. The "Uniting for Peace" resolution of November 1950 during the Korean War showed possibilities for General Assembly and Security Council cooperation.

I express sincere gratitude to our colleagues from China, Korea, and Japan for this serious discussion about the United Nations' future in Kyoto.

Ms. HU Wenli - Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China said...

Dr. KWAAK YoungHoon, President of UNA-ROK

As we close our 2025 UNA Trilateral Gathering in Kyoto, I thank you again. I have learned much from you, and my elders taught me that health and respect are life's most important things—I respect your continuous efforts.

Today we discussed three key issues: following up the Pact for the Future at the UN's 80th anniversary, reforming the UN and reinvigorating multilateralism, and promoting AI governance through enhanced multilateral cooperation. These discussions reinforced my belief in turning CACA—the Common Aspiration for Creative Advancement co-signed at Seoul Olympeace Park—into concrete action.

Many see Japan, China, and Korea as the most unlikely trio to reach agreement. I want to prove them wrong. Life becomes simpler when we stop explaining ourselves to skeptics and just do what works. Beautiful things happen when we distance ourselves from negativity.

Just two weeks ago, our three countries' agriculture, fisheries, and forestry ministers agreed to work together on climate change and unstable food supply chains. This encouraging news makes us less skeptical and more hopeful.

Before we close today, shouldn't we commit to an action plan? I propose focusing on cleaning our oceans: the "Common Aspiration for Creative Advancement in Ocean Cleaning"—CACAO.

Our oceans connect all continents and peoples but are overwhelmed by plastic waste, threatening marine ecosystems and planetary balance.

Couldn't our three UN Associations unite around this ocean-cleaning plan? Couldn't we write this action plan together and present it at the 80th United Nations next week?

Let us forge consensus from this 13th Trilateral Meeting in Kyoto—the birthplace of global climate action. Let this mark a turning point: CACA 2024 Seoul and CACAO 2025 Kyoto!

Together, let us aspire for humanity and our only planet's future.

Thank you.



List of Delegates

UNA-Japan

1. **Amb. AKASHI Yasushi** - Vice-President of UNA-Japan and Former Under Secretary-General of the UN
2. **Prof. HASEGAWA Sukehiro** - Board Member of UNA-Japan and Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Timor-Leste
3. **Amb. YAMAMOTO Tadamichi** - Board Member of UNA-Japan, Former Japanese Ambassador to UNESCO and SRSG for Afghanistan
4. **Prof. Ikegami Kiyoko** - Board Member of UNA-Japan and President, Plan International

UNA-China

1. **Ms. HU Wenli** - Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China
2. **Mr. FENG Fei** - Director of UNA-China
3. **Prof. ZHA Wen** - Professor at the Institute of International Relations of China Foreign Affairs University
4. **Mr. XUE Lei** - Research Fellow of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies
5. **Prof. ZHOU Hui** - Deputy Director of the Faculty of Cyber and Information Law, Institute of Law
6. **Mr. YOU Baishun** - Program Officer of UNA-China

UNA-ROK (Republic of Korea)

1. **Dr. Kwaak YoungHoon** - President of UNA-ROK and President of the World Citizens Organization
2. **Prof. PARK Heung-Soon** - Vice-President of UNA-ROK and Professor Emeritus of Sunmoon University
3. **Mr. Hwang Cheol-Kyu** - Vice-President of UNA-ROK and Former President of International Association of Prosecutors
4. **Mr. Lee Taeho** - Vice-President of UNA-ROK and Former Vice Minister of MOFA