



Japan's Foreign Policy UN Security Council Sanctions on North Korea and their Implications

A *u: japan* lecture by TOKU Satoko (徳聡子)

Thursday
2025-03-20
18⁰⁰~19³⁰



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Sanctions are a key diplomatic tool to address international security threats through economic and political restrictions. They are designed to deter aggression, enforce compliance with international norms, and safeguard global stability. As the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) are binding measures adopted by UN Security Council, the sanctions provided by UNSCRs can take various forms, including trade restrictions, asset freezes, and travel bans, each tailored to curb illicit activities and pressure targeted entities into adherence with international regulations. Japan has been implementing the UNSCRs against North Korea since 2006 in response to its nuclear and missile programs, aligning with broader UN Security Council (UNSC) efforts to limit Pyongyang's access to resources that could further its military ambitions. As a key player in the enforcement and monitoring

of these sanctions, Japan works alongside international partners to ensure their effectiveness while navigating complex regional security dynamics.

This lecture provides an overview of UNSC sanctions on North Korea, analyzing their diplomatic significance and broader implications. It will focus on three key areas: first, the structure and function of UNSC sanctions, including their objectives and enforcement mechanisms; second, their impact on academic exchanges and research collaborations; and finally, recent developments and challenges, such as North Korea's cyber activities and evolving sanction evasion tactics. By exploring these aspects, the lecture offers insight into Japan's foreign policy and its role within the global security framework.



Ms TOKU Satoko (徳聡子) is a Japanese diplomat currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission (Minister-Counsellor) at the Embassy of Japan in Austria since September 2024. With over three decades of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan, she has served in various roles in foreign policy, international trade, and multilateral diplomacy.

Her international postings include diplomatic assignments in the United Kingdom, Myanmar, Vienna, and Geneva. In the latter two, she represented Japan in major global organizations such as UNHCR, OCHA, and UNODC. In Japan, she held key positions related to international trade negotiations, including the negotiation of investment agreements and FTAs (e.g. the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Japan-EU, Japan-Canada, and RCEP).

Before being assigned to Austria, she was the Director of the United Nations Sanctions Division (2021-2024), overseeing Japan's approach to global sanctions and international security and was thus involved in the UN Security Council and sanction discussions on North Korea.

Ms. Toku holds a degree from Sophia University in Tokyo as well as Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, and joined the MOFA in 1991.

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