

SIXTY YEARS OF COMMITMENT: JAPAN AND THE UN



On 18 December 1956 Japan's then-foreign minister Mamoru Shigemitsu gave a speech at the UN General Assembly in which he confirmed Japan's accession to the United Nations. "The substance of Japan's political, economic, and cultural life is the product of the fusion within the last century of the civilizations of the Orient and the Occident," he said. "In a way, Japan may well be regarded as a bridge between the East and the West. It is fully conscious of the great responsibilities of such a position." Shigemitsu closed his remarks by expressing "the resolve of Japan to serve sincerely the high cause of the United Nations." How has Japan fulfilled this pledge? Read on to find out.