

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation Group Meeting (22 July)

Dear Chairperson, Distinguished Speakers,

Allow me to start by extending my warmest gratitude to Sweden, Chair of the Asian Partners for Cooperation Group, for co-organizing this meeting, as well as to the Polish chair for his excellent leadership in our challenging times. I would also like to thank Her Excellency OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid for taking time out of her busy schedule to join us at Hofburg today.

30 years have passed since the end of the cold war. Yet today, we are facing Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which undermines the foundation of the international order, not only in Europe but also in Asia. It is now more important than ever for the OSCE, its participating States and its Asian Partners for Co-operation to further strengthen their cooperation.

Since participation as a Partner, Japan has actively contributed to OSCE discussions at Hofburg and field operations. These years also correlate with the period in which Japan's diplomacy, both in aid and in peace-building, has evolved with Human Security as its very guiding principle. I am glad to look back at what we have achieved so far as well as what we will do in the future.

I'm especially honored and delighted to welcome State Minister, Ms. SUZUKI Takako for her Keynote Speech and UNSG Representative in Belgrade Ms. YAMASHITA Mari as a panelist of Thematic Discussion.

I look forward to the perspectives and the experiences of participating States and Partners. I thank you.