

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
on "Importance of the International Rules-based Order and
Cooperation among Countries."

1409th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
2nd February 2023

Mr. Chair, Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to be able to speak in front of you all today at the OSCE Permanent Council, representing Japan as new Ambassador for the first time.

Allow me, now, to congratulate North Macedonia (NM) on its assumption of the OSCE Chairpersonship 2023. Japan particularly values NM's human-centered approach, namely, as Foreign Minister Osmani stated, "It's about People". "Human security" has always been at the core of Japan's foreign policy. Needless to say, human rights, democracy and the rule of law are universal values that are shared by the majority of nations. Even at the time of the League of Nations, we were spearheading the promotion of tolerance and calls for non-discrimination regardless of races. We are happy to work together with the NM Chairmanship.

Mr. Chair,

Japan has been engaging in European security for a long time, contributing, inter alia, to peace-making in the Western Balkans in the 1990's. I personally worked towards that of Kosovo 15 years ago.

Today, the international community stands at a crossroads in history. I cannot say more to many of my colleagues' perception that Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine is posing a serious challenge to Europe. I must add, however,

that it is causing human suffering and has huge impact on the security in other parts of the world, as well, including East Asia. I don't think I need to elaborate further in this regard. That is why we consider this act of aggression outrageous, facing the very foundation of the international order having been shaken.

Under these difficult circumstances, it is of greater importance than ever for the OSCE, its participating States and its partners to combine efforts in order to uphold the international order based on the rule of law. As the G7 Presidency this year, Japan would like to demonstrate the G7's strong determination to this end.

We stand in full solidarity with Ukrainians who have had to seek protection in other countries and with those bravely fighting against the aggressor. We will continue to align with partners regarding the unwavering support for Ukraine we provide and the measures we have put in place in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

In concluding, let me express my sincere respect to the OSCE for the important role it has played in confidence-building. Japan stands ready to support the OSCE as it strives towards comprehensive security and regional stability – as part of our efforts and responsibilities for international peace and security and in line with Japan's diplomatic objectives. I am looking forward to working closely together with the North Macedonian Chair as well as the participating States in the year 2023 and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.