

**【Check Against Delivery】**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RYUTA MIZUUCHI,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the OSCE  
on “Russia’s on-going aggression on Ukraine”  
Permanent Council, OSCE  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Distinguished Colleagues,

I am sure you have been following Japan’s most recent diplomatic efforts. But let me take this opportunity to share with you about some of the most important outcomes of Prime Minister Kishida’s visit to India and Ukraine.

During his visit to India, Prime Minister KISHIDA announced the updated plan of our “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” vision on 20<sup>th</sup> March. In this updated vision, we are of course talking primarily about the future of Indo-Pacific. However, it has a global relevance. It is also related to European peace and security. Therefore, let me quote the most important elements out of it.

First, we are clearly defining the core principles of FOIP as “defending freedom and the rule of law”, and “emphasizing respect for diversity, inclusiveness and openness”. We aim to pursue this goal by rulemaking through dialogue and equal partnership as well as by focusing on “people”, - just like this year’s focus of North Macedonian OSCE Chairmanship.

Second, we intend to expand our cooperation for FOIP, ensuring that the weak will not be beaten by force in peace-making, and addressing global challenges such as climate change or food

security in an “Indo-Pacific way”. A multi-layered connectivity as well as security and safety of both sea and air will also be considered.

Mr. Chair,

Prime Minister KISHIDA then traveled to Ukraine where he met with President Zelensky on March 21<sup>st</sup>. While announcing that the bilateral relationship between Japan and Ukraine will be upgraded to a “Special Global Partnership”, the two leaders demonstrated their solidarity in countering Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, inter alia, by condemning in the strongest possible terms the illegal, unjustifiable and unprovoked aggression by Russia against Ukraine, and sharing the belief that forcible acquisition of territory is unacceptable and that Russia must immediately cease hostilities and withdraw all forces immediately and unconditionally.

With regard to Japan’s G7 Presidency, Prime Minister KISHIDA requested President Zelensky to participate virtually in the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May. The President readily accepted the invitation. Mr. Kishida also stated that, in addition to the \$7.1 billion in assistance provided to date for people of Ukraine, Japan has decided to provide \$470 million in new bilateral grants for energy and other areas, and \$30 million for nonlethal equipment assistance through the NATO Trust Fund.

Anticipating that the situation in Ukraine will be one of the most important topics at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, Mr. Kishida ensured that Japan would maintain the unity of G7 in imposing sanctions against Russia and providing support to Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

I wish to recall that Japan remains committed to the peace and security in Europe at a time when the international community is

at history's turning point. At the same time, I would like to call on the OSCE participating countries to fully support the new FOIP plan as well as Japan's G7 presidency towards upholding the international order based on the rule of law.

Thank you for your attention.