

Japan's statement
on Special OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group Meeting
May 26th 10:00

Thank you, Mr. Chair and moderator. We welcome Mr. Bennett, Ms. Koofi, Ms. Kohistani, and Ms. Ionova, who are working for the rights of women, as we consider how to tackle this crucial issue as the international community.

Japan is deeply concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation that the Afghan people, especially women and girls, are facing and we strongly condemn the Taliban's measures that restrict the rights of women and girls. The Afghan people are losing hope for the future and are continuing to flee the country due to the Taliban's repressive policies. Therefore, it is important that this important issue is addressed in the OSCE platform.

Afghanistan faces major challenges. The dire humanitarian and economic situation is further exacerbated by the Taliban's decisions to deny women and girls access to education, employment and freedom. The threat of terrorism also persists, which is recognized as having a significant impact not only on Afghanistan but also on neighboring countries, including those in Central Asia.

In this context, I would like to highlight the communiqué of the G7 Hiroshima Summit, chaired by Japan this year, in which the G7 leaders expressed their strong concern about the rollback of women's and girls' rights in particular in time of crisis.

Further, the G7 reaffirmed their engagement with Central Asian countries in addressing various regional challenges. From this perspective, we believe that the OSCE plays an important role through its projects in Central Asia, such as border management.

Since the fall of Kabul in August 2021, Japan has remained

committed to providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and support for their basic needs in cooperation with the international community, with a view to preventing the country from being a safe haven for the terrorism due to further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

At the same time, we believe it is important for the international community to engage with the Taliban persistently to encourage change, including through direct contact with them. We are continuously doing so through our Ambassador in Kabul, and urge the Taliban to make a significant step to ensure respect for human rights and create space of national, inclusive, and Afghan-led dialogue.

Japan continues to support to address the complex challenges faced by the Afghan people by using every opportunity as well as dialogues in the international fora such as the G7 Summit, the UN Security Council and the OSCE platform.

Mr. Chair, I would like to reassure Japan's commitment to the efforts for a secure, stable, prosperous, and inclusive future of Afghanistan and its people.