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OPENING REMARKS

By Ambassador MIZUUCHI Ryuta, Ambassador of Japan to Austria

Permanent Representative to the OSCE

OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation Group Meeting

“Women’s meaningful participation from norm to practice- Good practices and experience in Asia”

(5 minutes)

Dear Mr. Chair, Madam Moderator, Distinguished Speakers and colleagues,

Let me start by thanking North Macedonia, Chair of the Asian Partners for Co-operation, for its splendid contribution to the activities of the OSCE Asian Partners in 2024. Together, we are very pleased to organize the kick-off meeting of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group Meeting of this year today.

Mr. Chair,

As the international community faces serious challenges in many parts of the world, it is more important than ever to strengthen partnerships for a free and open international order based on the rule of law, with the aim of leading the world towards cooperation rather than division and confrontation. Conflicts in one region are no longer of regional, but global nature, as we have seen in the last few years, in particular, as the inseparability of the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific has become evident.

It is in this regard that Japan does its utmost to strengthen the OSCE and Asian Partners’ equal and complementary partnership with each other and work together to tackle the challenges facing the world. To that

end, the OSCE Asian Partners have established a common theme, 'Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace', in line with the OSCE Chair's priority, and are willing to contribute to more coherent and inclusive discussions through APCG meetings and the OSCE Asian Conference, as well as through working with the chair of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE Secretariat.

Mr. Chair,

Today's discussion will focus on Women Peace and Security (WPS) in Asia, which is highly important in addressing peacebuilding and sustainable peace. We, Asians, have shown that inclusive peace processes are a key to creating sustainable peace and ending the cycle of conflict. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the promotion of peace and security has proven to be an important factor. However, this must become a common practice in the OSCE and Asian regions, and beyond.

Under our Foreign Minister, we are focusing on WPS as one of our priorities in foreign policy for promoting human-centered diplomacy including 'human security'. Based on the principle of the SDGs to 'leave no one behind', Japan attaches importance to the promotion of WPS in order to realize a safe and secure world where human dignity is protected.

WPS has come to our attention not only in conflict situations, but also in terms of disaster prevention and relief, particularly from our experience of a disaster-prone country. For this reason, Japan included elements of disaster prevention and relief into the WPS National Action Plan, which is currently in effect in Japan.

Mr. Chair,

Today, we were able to gain relevant speakers who will share their experiences from Japan, ASEAN and Central Asia in our effort to

bringing the WPS into practice. Through our lessons and good practices having been learnt and shared in Asia, we hope to reach out to this OSCE and OSCE-Asia Partners' platform. We also very much look forward to continuing this discussion in the future.

I thank you.