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Statement by the delegation of Japan
Special OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation Group Meeting
“Afghan Women’s Rights-regional problem with global impact.
Can we do more?”
(5 minutes)

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Let me begin by expressing our sincere condolences to the people affected by the floods that struck the northeastern region of Afghanistan in May. At the request of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Japan has decided to provide emergency aid to support the victims of the disaster. We express our solidarity with the Afghan people and will continue our efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Madam Moderator,

Almost three years have passed since the Taliban takeover in 2021. While Japan acknowledges signs of improvement in security, and progress in counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan by the survey undertaken by the UNODC in 2023, these gains are fragile unless the Taliban address the suffering of the Afghan people, including the human rights situation, especially with regard to women and girls.

We believe that change can only come from within Afghanistan. Recognizing the unique nature of Afghanistan as crossroads of civilization of Asia and Europe in its history, Japan resumed its presence in Kabul in September 2022 and has made persistent efforts as to engage directly with the Taliban to persuade them to change their policies in the direction desired by the Afghan people. In particular, we have called on the Taliban to eliminate all barriers on human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular, by Afghan women and girls, to ensure political inclusiveness and to build constructive relations with the international community, including by implementing the recommendations of the Independent Assessment to the UN Secretary

General, one of which identified the rights of women and girls as a priority area. Japan actively contributed to the discussions in the UN Security Council in 2023 and 2024 as a penholder on Afghanistan and will continue to do so. Madam Moderator,

Afghanistan's ongoing economic, human rights, and humanitarian crises are causing great suffering among the Afghan people. Human trafficking, trafficking of narcotics, and violent extremism not only endanger the lives of Afghans but also undermine the security of neighboring countries, the OSCE region and beyond.

In this context, Japan, which recognizes human security as its guiding principle, with a view to emphasizing the realization of "a world that cares for human dignity", highly values the OSCE's RIAOR (Response to the Implications of Afghanistan in the OSCE Region), including the Border Management Staff College, as a comprehensive response in line with the approach of human security. We believe it is important to analyze the impact of the framework and further improve its implementation, including in the context of WPS, which is highly valued by Japan.

Japan, on its part, has been making every effort to empower Afghan people, especially women and girls. In the most recent supplementary budget, Japan thus provided approximately USD 58 million to this end, including projects for women and girls through UN Women and other agencies.

In conclusion, Japan will continue to support the building of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan, and we are committed to creating a better future for all.

I thank you.