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**Statement by the delegation of Japan**  
**OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation Group Meeting**  
**“Enhancing Human Security: Protecting Youth and Children from Online  
Exploitation and Trafficking”**  
(5 minutes)

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Let me begin by thanking the Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation and Thailand for taking up such an important issue in line with the common themes identified by the OSCE Asian Partners in the non-paper on "Strengthening the Partnership between the OSCE and its Asian Partners". We believe that by strengthening our partnership, the OSCE's Asian Partners can help steer the world towards co-operation rather than division and confrontation.

Madam Moderator,

As the Internet increasingly influences children's daily lives at home and through school education, no child or youth should ever be a victim of sexual abuse or trafficking in any situation. Human security, which promotes sustainable individual self-reliance and social development through protection and empowerment, focusing on the individual to protect people from a wide range of serious threats to their survival, livelihoods and dignity, and to realize the rich potential of each person, will be the key guiding principle for all when considering the protection of children and youth.

Madam Moderator,

In April 2023, aiming to put the voices of children, youth and guardians at the center of society, Japan established the "Children and Families Agency". In July 2023, the Agency, together with relevant ministries and agencies, adopted “the Emergency Package of Measures for the Prevention of Sexual Victimization of Children and Young People” to further strengthen measures

to achieve a society in which all children and youth can live in peace. In the package, the Agency has strengthened its measures to deal with sexual violence on the Internet, prevention of harm caused by social networking services, education for safe use, and public information and awareness, taking into account the rapid changes in society, including the development of digital technology.

Madam Moderator,

Domestic measures alone are not sufficient to protect children and youth from sexual abuse or trafficking online. During its G7 presidency in 2023, Japan addressed common governance challenges in the digital sector in the G7 Leaders' Communiqué, reaffirming the importance of identifying potential gaps and fragmentation in global technology governance and the threat of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Japan also supports the OSCE's efforts in this area through the capacity building of the Ukrainian police to combat human trafficking, including cybercrime, which is being implemented by the OSCE under the Support Programme for Ukraine (SPU).

In conclusion, we all are responsible for addressing human security threats and removing any impediments hindering children's ability to pave their future. Let us once again put forward our best efforts to ensure that children's vulnerabilities are protected and to provide an environment in which they can fulfil their potential because they deserve to live in dignity.

I thank you.