

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RYUTA MIZUUCHI,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan
to the OSCE
Permanent Council, OSCE (5 July, 2024)**

Madam Chair,

Let me start by thanking Italy for proposing this important agenda item. We appreciate Italy's active role, holding the G7 presidency.

Madam Chair,

First of all, let me congratulate Italy on the impressive and successful holding of this year's G7 summit in Puglia. It is our general impression that Prime Minister Meloni demonstrated an outstanding leadership in bringing G7 together and that G7 was able to produce meaningful results on the challenges facing the world.

Japan particularly appreciates the fact that G7 was able to demonstrate the strong unity of G7, as well as its will and ability to cope with global challenges and present solutions to them. Italy has taken on board the outcome of Japan's G7 presidency of last year, in particular the nuclear disarmament, economic security, AI, Indo-Pacific and China. We were able to deepen discussions among our leaders on these issues, for which we are very thankful.

Maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law and strengthening engagement with international partners beyond the G7 are all the more important in the face of challenges such as Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine and tensions in the Middle East. At the G7 Apulia Summit in Italy, this perception has once again been confirmed.

Madam Chair,

We have time and again expressed our grave concern that Ukraine today may be elsewhere in the world, including East Asia, tomorrow. To uphold the fundamental principles of international law, and to prevent any future attempts to change the status quo by force anywhere in the world, it is essential that peace in Ukraine be achieved based on the UN Charter.

The G7 leaders' unwavering support for Ukraine that was demonstrated in the presence of President Zelenskyy, was an important achievement before the leaders traveled further to the Summit on Peace in Ukraine in Switzerland.

Madam Chair,

At both the G7 Apulia Summit and the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan will host an international conference on Ukraine Mine Action next year. Anti-personnel mines have a significant impact on people even after the conflict has ended. Japan, whose guiding principles are human dignity and human security, has been actively engaged in the field of mine action, including the provision of demining equipment and technical cooperation, and mine risk education. We look forward to the OSCE's contribution to the Conference, given the active discussion on humanitarian mine action at the OSCE platform.

Madam Chair,

We are looking forward to next year's Canadian presidency, as well, where the G7 will continue to work effectively on important issues of the international community. In this regard, we welcome Canada's intention to shed a light, inter alia, on the role of OSCE. Together with other G7 countries, Japan is willing to contribute

more intensively to the discussions on our global challenges.

I thank you.