

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY the Delegation of Japan to the OSCE
On the Russian Federation's Malign Activities and Interference
in the OSCE Region
Current Issue, Permanent Council, OSCE
25 July, 2024**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I thank France for raising this issue at our last PC before the summer recess.

The security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific is inseparable, and it is widely recognized that the aggression against Ukraine is not only a European issue, but a global one including Indo-Pacific.

(As our colleagues stated previously,) Japan strongly condemns the increasing Russia-North Korea military cooperation, including North Korea's export and Russia's procurement of North Korean ballistic missiles as well as their use against Ukraine. This not only means another grave violation of UN Security Council resolutions, but also deteriorates the security of the Indo-Pacific region. Please be reminded that North Korea conducted 7 times launches using ballistic missile technology in the past 6 months including a failed launch of what they called a military reconnaissance satellite.

I wish to recall that these acts are taking place in flagrant violation of UNSC resolutions 1718(2006),1874(2009),2270(2016)

that are binding to all UN Member States, let alone Permanent Members of the Security Council. As a Permanent Member, Russia is seriously undermining the authority and legitimacy of the Security Council as a whole.

On 31 May, Foreign Ministers of Japan and like-minded countries and organization issued the Joint Statement on North Korea and Russia. We reaffirmed that the recent sanctions designations by each of our governments represent a coordinated effort to hold North Korea and Russia accountable and to impose costs on actors and entities involved in the unlawful arms transfer from North Korea to Russia for use in attacking Ukraine.

Our governments stand in resolute opposition to these continued arms transfers, which Russia has used to strike Ukraine's critical infrastructure, prolonging the suffering of the Ukrainian people. We call on North Korea and Russia to cease unlawful arms transfers and urge North Korea to take concrete steps towards abandoning all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner in accordance with UNSC resolutions.

Madam Chair,

Japan will continue to strengthen cooperation with like-minded countries under the framework of OSCE, and will make efforts to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

I thank you.