

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RYUTA MIZUUCHI,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the
OSCE on “Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against
Ukraine”**

Special Permanent Council, OSCE

26th August 2024

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Honoring Ukraine’s Independence Day on 24 August, and as we mark two and a half years since Russia launched a full-scale war of aggression against its peaceful neighbour, let me add Japan's voice to today's Special Meeting of the Permanent Council.

Regrettably, we see no sign of ending the war. Russia’s brutal actions against Ukrainian territories continue, resulting in the killing of countless innocent civilians and the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure. These acts by the Russian forces in Ukraine are unacceptable, and Japan condemns these in the strongest terms. The truth about these atrocities must be uncovered and Russia must be held strictly accountable.

As this war not only affects the European security but also poses a challenge to all of us on the globe and to humanity as a whole, Japan sees it as its obligation to continue voicing its fundamental position, namely, to condemn Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, making use of all platforms available such as this one, in close coordination with the international community.

Madam Chair,

Japan expresses its sincere respect for the courage and patience of the people in Ukraine, who, for the past two and a half years have been uniting to fight against Russia’s aggression amid the increasingly harsh war situation.

As our Prime Minister Kishida stated at the G7 Apulia Summit July, Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow. We therefore will continue to promote sanctions against Russia and are committed to standing with Ukraine and its people.

In support of Ukraine, Japan has provided financial, humanitarian and other assistance totaling over 12 billion US dollars since March 2022. Prioritizing support for demining, we are promoting the provision of large demining machines made in Japan and will host an International Demining Conference on Ukraine Mine Action next year.

As we look to the mid- and long-term reconstruction of Ukraine, we will also spare no effort in promoting the country's economic growth and recovery working closely together with the private sector.

Madam Chair,

Japan urges Russia to cease its aggression and immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine. We continue to stand with the people of Ukraine.

I thank you.