

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KIMINORI IWAMA,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan
to the OSCE
Special Permanent Council, OSCE
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Mr. Chair,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Finnish Chairmanship for convening today's Special Permanent Council Meeting.

First of all, like all other previous speakers, on behalf of the Government of Japan, we would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims, among others the innocent children, who were targeted by Russian ballistic missiles at a residential area in Kryvyi Rih on 4th April.

We condemn Russia for its continued aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. It is a pity that we have to repeat this message even though efforts are being made towards a ceasefire led by the US and accepted by Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

I believe that the state of peace in Ukraine could have a significant impact not only on Europe, but on the international order as a whole, including the Indo-Pacific region.

Last Thursday, during his visit to Brussels, Mr. IWAYA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan held a foreign ministers' meeting with Mr. SYBIHA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Minister IWAYA expressed his respect for Minister SYBIHA's vigorous diplomatic efforts, and underlined the importance that these diplomatic efforts lead to the realization of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. He

furthermore emphasized that Japan would continue to support Ukraine's efforts along this way.

Japan strongly urges Russia to take positive reactions, and once again, Japan reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine.

I thank you.