

**Statement of Ms. TOKU Satoko,
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Mr. Chair,

First of all, we would like to thank the OSCE Chairmanship for its leadership in organizing this important meeting.

Today, we are facing serious challenges to the foundation of the global order. Japan attaches great importance to the fact that, even under these circumstances, the OSCE continues to play an important role in having dialogue and confidence-building among the participating States (pS). In light of the complexity of the situation, we would like to point out that the closer collaboration between the participating States and Partner States is becoming indispensable.

This year marks two historically significant milestones: the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. These are valuable opportunities to reaffirm our commitment to peace, our determination to avoid the tragedy of war, and our dedication to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

On 24 June, the United States announced a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Iran, a development that Japan welcomes. Japan expresses its hope that both Israel and Iran will steadily implement this agreement.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine constitutes a violation of international law, fundamentally undermining the foundation of the global order. While various diplomatic efforts by countries including Europe and the U.S. are actively ongoing towards ending the war, Russia's attacks continue, and a ceasefire has yet to be achieved. Japan strongly calls on Russia to take positive actions for a full ceasefire and the realization of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

Attempts at unilateral changes to the status quo by force are unacceptable anywhere in the world. With a strong awareness that "Ukraine today may be the East Asia of tomorrow," Japan's intention to continue its support for Ukraine and sanctions against Russia remains unchanged.

We must bear in mind that situation in Ukraine could impact global security, including the security of the Indo-Pacific region. As we pursue peace in Ukraine, we must ensure that 'wrong lessons' are not drawn.

Currently, in the Indo-Pacific region as well, attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force are continuing and intensifying. China's external posture and military activities are serious concern to the international community. Japan is concerned that China's support for Russia is making this war sustainable. Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion including in the East and South China Seas. Japan strongly hopes that Russia and China would change their behavior and meet their responsibilities as responsible major powers.

Japan is seriously concerned over the advancement of Russia-North Korea military cooperation. The security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions has become inseparable, and the cooperation will not only lead to a further deterioration of the security situation in Europe but also have an adverse effect on security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. With this in mind, Japan has been working closely with the OSCE and other international for a and intends to continue doing so.

In this context, the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team (MSMT) established by like-minded countries including Japan published its first report on the theme of " Unlawful Military Cooperation including Arms Transfers between North Korea and Russia" last month. Japan underscores the vital importance of the full implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions by all Member States. We also reiterate serious concern over the potential transfer of military technology from Russia to North Korea.

Mr. Chair,

Japan, as the OSCE's oldest Asian partner country, would like to deepen its cooperation with the OSCE. In this regard we hope that the voices of partners, including the concrete proposals from Japan following the small-group consultations on the future of OSCE held in Vienna, will be considered by the current OSCE Chair, Finland and supported by the participating states.

Finally, we are aware that comprehensive security approach is indispensable to enable the OSCE to achieve its original purpose. In that regard, Japan, together with Malta will focus on the importance of economic connectivity in ensuring peace and security in the OSCE region and beyond. On July 7th, Japan and Malta, the chair of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation, will hold an Asia Partners Meeting to share risk and opportunities from that perspective with the participating states. We hope to have active participation from many participating States.

Mr. Chair,

We are convinced that by reminding ourselves of the mutual relevance of security of the participating states and partners will elevate the relevance of OSCE as an international organization in the next 10 years.

I thank you.