

Statement of Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan
to the OSCE
Permanent Council, OSCE
“On Malign Activity in the OSCE Region”, under Current Issues
3 July 2025

Mr. Chair,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the United States for proposing the topic, “Malign activity in the OSCE Region.”

As introduced by the U.S. colleague, at the ASRC last week, we raised concerns about the serious threats that the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific regions are currently facing, noting that the OSCE's role in dialogue and confidence-building is highly important and that closer cooperation among participating countries and Partner countries is essential.

During the NATO Summit in The Hague, which just finished last week, the meeting between the NATO Secretary General and the Indo-Pacific partners, Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand took place. In the statement between the NATO Secretary General and the Indo-Pacific partners the importance of the relationship was reaffirmed and a commitment to strengthening our dialogue and cooperation was made, based on shared strategic interests and common values as well as the recognition that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific is interconnected.

Mr. Chair,

Relations with a neighboring country, China, are one of Japan's most important bilateral relations and the two countries have close economic ties and people to people and cultural exchanges.

However, various challenges and concerns remain. While Russia's aggression against Ukraine constitutes a violation of international law, fundamentally undermining the foundation of the global order, attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force are continuing and intensifying in the Indo-Pacific, as well. 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 the 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.

In the field of economic security, a wide range of significant risks are emerging, such as supply chain disruption resulting from overdependence on specific countries for critical goods.

In this regard, let me briefly touch upon the measures Japan is conducting. With regard to cyber security, in recent years, sophisticated cyber-attacks aimed at stealing sensitive information and disrupting critical infrastructure have been growing rapidly. In addition, serious cyber-attacks sponsored by state actors are now a daily occurrence, making cyber-attacks a major national security concern in Japan and beyond.

In Japan, the Economic Security Promotion Act was approved in 2022 in order to foster national security from an economic perspective. It is based on the recognition that security concerns are rapidly expanding into the economic field due to an increasingly complex international situation and changes in the socio-economic structure. Under the Act, the government is addressing issues such as the emergence of vulnerabilities in the supply chain as a result of increased cross-border economic activities, increase in cyber-attacks and other threats to key infrastructure projects, as well as intensification of struggle for supremacy over cutting-edge technologies.

In this regard, I would also like to mention the fact that the Japanese Minister in charge of economic security, Mr. Kiuchi, visited Austria and Germany last week to discuss with the respective counterparts of the government the issues related to economic security. In this context, Japan appreciates the role played by the OSCE in addressing those challenges.

Mr. Chair,

Next Monday, Japan, together with Malta, will host an APCG Meeting under the topic of “economic connectivity ensuring peace and security in the OSCE region and beyond”. It aims at discussing the current state of economic cooperation in the OSCE region and Asia, evaluating mutual risks and opportunities in each region and country through the promotion of economic connectivity, and reviewing measures to address these risks for future global economic growth and stability in the OSCE region and beyond. We invited distinguished experts from the Czech Republic, Central Asia and the Philippines who will provide an overview of the global threat, from a broader perspective. We will welcome active participation from many participating States as well as partner countries.

Japan, as an Asian Partner will continue our active contribution together with participating States and international partners in order to tackle our common global challenges.

I thank you.