

【Check Against Delivery】

**Statement of Mr. Kiminori IWAMA, Ambassador of Japan in Austria
Permanent Representative of Japan to the OSCE
Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo
Permanent Council, OSCE**

16th Oct. 2025

Mr. Chair,

Today, I would like to echo my colleagues in welcoming Ambassador Gerard McGurk to the Permanent Council. As Ambassador to Kosovo, I am focusing closely on the situation in Kosovo and the activities of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

Mr. Chair,

This year the Osaka-Kansai Expo, which lasted 184 days, just concluded successfully this Tuesday. Many high-level officials visited Japan during their respective countries' National Days.

On the occasion of Kosovo Day in June, President Osmani visited Japan, and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister ISHIBA, and engaged in extensive exchanges in economic and other fields.

Next month, in order to advance bilateral relations in the business sector as well, a Japanese business mission is scheduled to visit Kosovo as well as Albania. Our initiatives in the economic area have also received high recognition from Kosovo's government. We hope that Kosovo's economic development will contribute to the long-term resolution of the challenges facing Kosovo such as the development of resilient multi-ethnic communities.

Mr. Chair,

We highly value the activities carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Its active engagement in the promotion of democracy, the protection of human and community rights, good governance, promoting gender

perspectives as well as inter-community dialogue including the initiatives for non-majority communities are highly commendable.

Particularly in the latter two areas, “the Dialogue Academy for Young Women”, implemented jointly with the OSCE Serbia Mission, is drawing our attention for its important role in enhancing the participation of young women in inter-community dialogue. Furthermore strengthening capacities in the judiciary, police, and public security sectors is a crucial step to further the development of a democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, where the rights of all people are fully and equally respected.

Regarding the local elections that just started on 12th October, staff from our Embassy in Kosovo participated in the EU-organized Diplomatic Watch team and observed voting situations at some polling stations. Based on our observations, voting proceeded smoothly. It will take some time for the overall results to be finalized, and we express our respect for the Mission’s tireless efforts to advance inter-community understanding and dialogue in the media environment and information literacy.

We also commend the Mission’s groundwork in line with the priorities of the OSCE Chairmanship, the promotion of cooperation not only at the national level but also with Kosovo's 38 municipalities, and the importance of close coordination with the Government of Kosovo and international partners, including EULEX, KFOR, and the EU.

Regarding the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, Japan strongly urges both parties to engage in constructive dialogue to find solutions to outstanding issues. This is essential for peace and stability in the Western Balkans as a whole.

Japan will continue to support Ambassador McGurk and his able team in carrying out their mandate during the upcoming period. We will work closely with the international community to promote peace, stability, and reconciliation in the region.

I thank you.
