

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY Delegation of Japan to the OSCE
Permanent Council, OSCE
15 January, 2026**

First of all, on behalf of Japan, we extend our deepest sympathies to H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, regarding the explosion and fire that occurred in Crans-Montana, Canton of Valais, in the Swiss Confederation on 1st January.

We would also like to express our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives and wish for a swift recovery of those who were injured.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to welcome Mr. Cassis back to the Permanent Council in his new capacity as Chair of the OSCE 2026. Despite the complexity of the international situation and the challenges faced by the OSCE, Japan remains committed to supporting the new Chairmanship.

Japan supports the five priorities defined by the Chair. We welcome that a just and lasting peace in Ukraine remains at the center of the Chairpersonship's priorities. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundations of the international order. It is therefore crucial to bring an early end to this war, which tramples upon the Helsinki Principles, and achieve a just and lasting peace. Under the impression that "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow" Japan has been working on the situation in Ukraine with a particularly strong focus and will continue its unwavering support for Ukraine, including through sanctions against Russia in coordination with the G7 and the international community.

Mr. Chair,

At the 2025 OSCE Ministerial Council, the joint statement on strengthening cooperation between the OSCE and Asian partners was delivered. This statement was led by Asian Partners for Cooperation for the first time since the establishment of the OSCE and was joined by 48 participating states. We believe that strengthened cooperation between participating States and Asian Partners through concrete steps will contribute to making the OSCE more effective and align it with “inclusive multilateral diplomacy”, which is one of the chair’s priorities.

We also welcome the reforms based on the results of the Helsinki+50 consultations held under last year's Finnish Chairmanship, and expect that these reforms will strengthen the relationship between the OSCE and its partners, the need for which was recognized during those consultations.

In particular, we believe that greater coordination between the Troika and Partners for Cooperation can be achieved by enhancing existing information-sharing discussions to allow for more strategic coordination. This could include regular ambassadorial-level meetings (quarterly) between the Troika and Asian partners, especially in the run-up to the Ministerial Council.

We look forward to working with Switzerland to further enhance our partnership in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

Japan places great importance on the OSCE's field activities. In particular, we have long provided support to Central Asia through the OSCE. I am pleased to announce that Japan newly decided to contribute an additional 79,754 euros to the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan in order to improve border control capabilities. We hope that the OSCE's field activities will

promote peace and stability in the region .

I thank you.