

【Check Against Delivery】

STATEMENT BY Mr. Kiminori IWAMA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the OSCE Reinforced Permanent Council, OSCE 24 February 2026

Mr. Chair,

Let me start by thanking the chair of the OSCE for convening today's meeting.

It has been 4 years since Russia launched its unprovoked war of aggression against the sovereign state of Ukraine.

The war has further evolved with the support of North Korea supplying Russia not only with weapons, ammunition and ballistic missiles, but also by deploying its own troops for the engagement in combat against Ukraine. Such unlawful, illegitimate and unacceptable military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, being carried out in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, expands the geographical scope of the conflict and undermines peace and security in Europe, the Indo-Pacific and beyond. In addition, Japan is concerned that China's support for Russia is making the war sustainable. Japan strongly hopes that China would change their behavior and meet their responsibilities as responsible major powers.

Mr. Chair,

Russia's aggression against Ukraine constitutes a clear and blatant violation of international law and commitments, including the Helsinki principles.

The preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity is of paramount importance and any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force must never be accepted anywhere in the world.

Japan's position remains unwavering. "We have stood with Ukraine, and we will continue to stand with Ukraine."

In this regard, on February 12, Foreign Minister MOTEGI had a telephone conference with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister SYBIHA, reaffirming cooperation between the G7 and Ukraine.

Subsequently, on February 14, Foreign Minister MOTEGI and Defense Minister KOIZUMI both attended the Munich Security Conference, where they discussed Japan's efforts to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law, as well as its close coordination with like-minded countries.

Mr. Chair,

Japan has closely been observing the recent trilateral talks between the United States, Russia, and Ukraine. Japan also appreciates the recent visits to Kyiv and Moscow by the OSCE Chairmanship (Foreign Minister Cassis), and the OSCE Secretary General to discuss the potential role of the OSCE with an eye towards a future peace agreement. Japan is convinced that the OSCE is well-placed to play a meaningful role wherever international engagement is required.

Finally, Japan unequivocally condemns Russia's continued strikes on residential homes and critical energy infrastructure, particularly in the depths of Ukraine's harsh winter. We have provided generators, transformers, and other equipment as support. Japan will continue to work in close cooperation with the international community to provide support to Ukraine and implement sanctions against Russia.

I thank you.

(3 minutes)