

**【Check Against Delivery】**

**Statement of the Delegation of Japan  
Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo  
Permanent Council, OSCE**

28 May, 2026

Mr. Chair,

I would like to echo my colleagues in welcoming Ambassador Gerard McGurk back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive report. As Japanese Ambassador to Kosovo, I visit Kosovo regularly; most recently in the week of 12 May. Through direct discussions with Ambassador McGurk, the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo and representatives of various institutions, we are closely following the situation in Kosovo and the impact of OSCE activities.

Mr. Chair,

Although Japan and Kosovo are geographically distant, we share common values of freedom and democracy, and Japan recognized Kosovo as a state early on after its declaration of independence in February 2008.

In an increasingly complex international situation, it is becoming even clearer that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is inseparable. As Prime Minister Takaichi has made clear through Japan's updated Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision, Japan is determined to play an even more proactive role in building an international order based on freedom, openness, diversity, inclusiveness, and the rule of law. Stability of the European region, including Kosovo and the Western Balkans, is therefore of direct concern to Japan, and we intend to continue close cooperation for the sake of stability and development in Kosovo and the Western Balkan region. From this perspective, we believe that promoting the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue is important.

We also take note of the snap parliamentary election to be held in Kosovo on June 7. We believe that it is important for Kosovo's stability to swiftly

proceed with the formation of a parliament, the establishment of a cabinet, and the election of a president after the upcoming election.

Mr. Chair,

We highly value the activities of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in the areas of human rights promotion and protection, good governance, security and public safety.

In this regard, following the adoption of the OSCE Unified Budget, we are closely monitoring the impact that budgetary reductions have on these activities. We commend the Mission's efforts to avoid duplication with the activities of other organizations operating in Kosovo and to concentrate OSCE activities on areas where it has a comparative advantage, such as the protection of the rights of non-majority communities and vulnerable persons for the purpose of building trust between communities.

With regard to the plan to consolidate the five Regional Centres into three, as mentioned in the report, we deem it important to ensure that the consolidation will not leave any municipalities uncovered.

Mr. Chair,

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

I thank you.

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