

**Statement of H.E. IWAMA Kiminori,  
Ambassador of Japan to Austria,  
Permanent Representative to the OSCE  
Annual Security Review Conference, OSCE  
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Mr. Chair,

Since joining the OSCE as an Asian Partner in 1992, Japan has consistently recognized the importance of fundamental principles such as the rule of law, human rights, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Guided by the belief that these principles constitute the foundation of security not only in Europe but also in Asia, Japan has continued to advocate this position in various OSCE fora.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine constitutes a grave violation of international law and OSCE commitments, including the Helsinki principles. Japan has consistently maintained its position, within the OSCE and on other occasions, that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force can never be accepted.

Against this backdrop, Japan welcomes the mediation efforts undertaken by the United States and other countries toward achieving a ceasefire. At the same time, Japan reiterates that any peace settlement must fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and must not serve to legitimize any change of the status quo by force.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine's economic and social resilience is indispensable for sustaining its defense capabilities and protecting the lives and livelihoods of its people. To date, Japan has provided assistance totaling approximately USD 20 billion, focusing on

humanitarian, financial, recovery, and reconstruction support, while also supplying equipment such as bulletproof vests and Japan Self-Defense Force vehicles.

Japan has also supported the maintenance of Ukraine's energy supply system through the provision of generators, transformers, and other equipment. Japan pays tribute to the courage and perseverance of the Ukrainian people and will continue to work closely with like-minded partners to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction.

Mr. Chair,

In this regard, the military and economic support provided by North Korea and China for Russia's aggression against Ukraine clearly demonstrates the validity of Japan's long-standing message within the OSCE that the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific is inseparable. Since the outset of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, former Prime Minister Kishida and successive Japanese government officials have repeatedly expressed a strong sense of urgency, warning that "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow." Against this backdrop, I would like to take this opportunity to address the security environment surrounding Japan and the policies that Japan is currently pursuing.

In Japan's neighborhood, military build-ups by China and North Korea continue, while Russia's aggression against Ukraine has accelerated closer cooperation not only between China and Russia, but also between Russia and North Korea. As a result, the strategic and security environment surrounding Japan has become increasingly severe. In response, Japan is strengthening its strategic autonomy, resilience, and deterrence capabilities, while working with partners that share our values and principles to uphold and reinforce a stable international order. As part of these efforts, Prime Minister Takaichi last month advanced the

concept of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” by proposing the “Evolved Free and Open Indo-Pacific” initiative. This initiative seeks to uphold and strengthen a rules-based international order founded on the rule of law, the freedom of navigation and free trade, while promoting the Indo-Pacific as a free and open international public good.

At the same time, Japan takes seriously the threats emerging in the digital domain, including cyberattacks conducted by state actors and the spread of disinformation. Accordingly, Japan is advancing cyber diplomacy centered on three pillars: promoting the rule of law in cyberspace, strengthening deterrence through public attribution, and supporting capacity-building efforts.

From this perspective, it was particularly timely that addressing transnational threats in the digital era was a central theme of the OSCE Asian Conference held in Bangkok last month. In Session 2, Japan shared its experiences and perspectives on the current situation and challenges in combating fraudulent phone scams.

Mr. Chair,

Today, the international community faces a range of complex and transnational security challenges, including challenges to the international order, rising geopolitical tensions, threats in cyberspace, and the spread of disinformation. In addressing these challenges, the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive security is becoming increasingly important.

On 15 June, Japan co-hosted, together with Finland, a meeting of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group (APCG), where participants engaged in meaningful discussions on cross-regional challenges, including economic security and supply chain resilience.

To address these challenges and advance comprehensive security, cooperation between OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation is more important than ever. Japan remains committed to working closely with its partners and making proactive contributions toward maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

I thank you.