

Statement by State Minister for Foreign Affairs H. E. Mr. FUJII Hisayuki At the 31st OSCE Ministerial Council December 5th, 2024

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere respect to the OSCE and the Republic of Malta, for hosting the OSCE Ministerial Council. I am honored to attend this Council as the State Minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Today, the international community is facing serious challenges to the international order that we have long safeguarded. Japan attaches great importance to the fact that, even under these circumstances, the OSCE continues to play an important role in having dialogue and confidence-building among participating countries with diverse values.

In Europe, one thousand days have passed since Russia began its aggression against Ukraine. Such aggression is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundation of the international order. Japan once again strongly condemns Russia.

With a strong awareness that “Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow,” Japan’s intention to continue severe sanctions against Russia and

to provide strong support for Ukraine remains unchanged. This has been clearly demonstrated by Foreign Minister IWAYA's visit to Ukraine immediately after taking office.

I myself attended the United Nations Security Council briefing on Ukraine right after my appointment as the State Minister, where I strongly emphasized such Japan's intention. We would like to reiterate that unilateral changes to the status quo by force cannot be tolerated anywhere in the world.

Japan has already pledged over 12 billion US dollars in total to support Ukraine, and is determined to steadily implement such support. Japan is determined to contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine.

Furthermore, we strongly condemn the development of military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, including North Korea's deployment of troops to Russia and their participation in combat. The advancement of such cooperation between Russia and North Korea demonstrates again the inseparability of the security of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific.

Turning our eyes to the Indo-Pacific, unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force have been continuing and intensifying in the East and South China seas. Also, Japan is seriously concerned about the advancement of North Korea's nuclear and missile activities, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Japan began cooperation with the OSCE in 1992. Based on the firm belief that peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific region is

closely linked to each other, Japan has implemented various tangible assistance in its efforts toward democratization and regional stability including in Central Asia and Ukraine.

Japan has been working on strengthening the cooperation between OSCE and its partner countries. For instance, Japan co-chaired the “OSCE Asian Conference” in October this year, where we shared our knowledge and expertise in new areas such as WPS and climate security and others.

As one of the OSCE's Asian partners, Japan will continue to contribute to OSCE activities by building a robust and mutually complementary partnership.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers and Ladies and Gentlemen

The year 2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of the agreement to the Helsinki Final Act, which laid the foundations for the work of the CSCE's activities in an attempt to the détente between the East and the West.

Japan will further strengthen our cooperation with the OSCE to uphold a free and open international order based on the rule of law, in order to lead a world toward cooperation rather than division and confrontation.

Thank you for your attention.