

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY the Delegation of Japan to the OSCE
Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region
(RIAOR), Permanent Council, OSCE
25 July, 2024**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Madam Secretary General,

Thank you for updating the Permanent Council on the OSCE's response to the humanitarian, security and political situation emanating from Afghanistan.

Next month will mark three years since the Taliban once again took over Afghanistan in 2021. Although there have been some positive developments, such as the overall improvement in the security situation and the reduction in poppy production, human rights situation remains dire and continues to be a concern for the international community.

Madam Chair,

In order to prevent further destabilization in Afghanistan and to mitigate the negative impact on the regional and international sphere, it is necessary for the international community to maintain its engagement in the region, including that with the

Taliban to encourage change, and continue to articulate its support for the Afghan people.

From this perspective, Japan resumed its presence in Kabul in September 2022, and continues to engage directly with the Taliban, calling for the removal of various restrictions and the establishment of constructive relations with the international community.

Madam Chair,

Afghanistan faces challenges in various areas, including the spread of narcotics, threats of terrorism, fragile economy, climate change and the education and employment of women, among others. These challenges cannot be addressed by Afghanistan or its neighboring countries alone. We, as members of the international community, can and should put our utmost effort to help Afghanistan ease the suffering of its people. Japan, together with other members of the international community, will continue to support the building of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan.

Recognizing that the OSCE is uniquely positioned to address the implications of the crisis in a comprehensive manner, and placing

human security as our guiding principle for international cooperation, Japan values the OSCE's efforts to ensure the survival, livelihood and dignity of the Afghan people, and will pursue opportunities including the acceptance of Afghan students at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

Finally, let me re-emphasize the importance of a unified response by the international community to address the challenges facing Afghanistan. On this basis, let me also stress the significance of the OSCE's support to RIAOR and hope that the RIAOR, which has been implemented since 2022, will be thoroughly evaluated in terms of its impact on Afghanistan and neighboring countries.

I thank you.