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**【Check Against Delivery】**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RYUTA MIZUUCHI,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the  
OSCE on “One-year anniversary of Russia’s aggression on  
Ukraine”  
Reinforced Permanent Council, OSCE  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Let me add Japan’s voice on today’s Reinforced Permanent Council.

One year has passed, and we see no end to the war, since Russia dissociated itself from the international community – by waging a horrible aggression against Ukraine. I have already said it once, but I must state it again. Russia’s brutal killing, not only on the battlefield, but also that targeting civilians, as well as violence and other acts of inhumanity on the innocent and vulnerable – these are intolerable.

It is not just a war on the European Continent. It is a challenge to all humanity – because Russia’s act constitutes a violation of international order based on the rule of law. It is the very foundation of the international community that has been abused. It is for this reason that Japan reiterates its condemnation of Russia in the strongest terms.

An online G7 summit hosted by the Japanese Presidency today shows our strong unity in fighting against Russia’s aggression. Japan continues to raise opposition and concerns to such aggression, making use of all platforms available such as the UN and OSCE meetings, and in cooperation with the international community.

Mr. Chair,

Japan absolutely cannot accept Russia's nuclear threats. President Putin's announcement on suspending the New START Treaty gravely concerns us because the Treaty has contributed to the strategic stability between the US and Russia. Japan emphasizes the importance of its full implementation

As Japan is leading the G7 Summit in Hiroshima this coming May, we will be working on what we call the "Hiroshima Action Plan" on nuclear disarmament. I urge you all to support this initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Also, we are committed to standing with Ukraine and its people. We support the global efforts in imposing sanctions against Russia.

This year, Japan has decided to contribute to two OSCE projects as a part of Japan's overall commitment amounting to 7.1 billion USD for the people of Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

In concluding my remarks, let me reiterate our call for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. We call on Russia to stop dissociating itself from the international community, and listen to this call, which is stemming from the heart of all peace-loving nations around the globe.

Thank you all.