

【Check Against Delivery】

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR IWAMA KIMINORI,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan
to the OSCE
Reinforced Permanent Council, OSCE
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Mr. Chairperson,

As we mark the third year of the aggression against Ukraine, I would like to echo my sincere gratitude to the Finnish Chairmanship for convening today's Reinforced Permanent Council Meeting.

In this turbulent international situation of heightened division and confrontation, we once again condemn Russia for its continued aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. At the same time, we commend the resilience of the people of Ukraine and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to supporting Ukraine in its legitimate efforts to defend its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The world stands at a critical juncture, where the ability of countries that share values and principles to maintain and strengthen cooperation is being challenged. As was mentioned by Prime Minister of Japan, ISHIBA at the summit meeting on assistance for Ukraine, today, any attempts to overturn status quo unilaterally through use of force should not be allowed anywhere in the world.

Upon this conviction, Japan has been conducting the assistance to Ukraine, as well as imposing sanctions on Russia continuously since the beginning of the invasion by Russia.

In this context, at the recent G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Munich under Canada's 2025 Presidency, Foreign Minister IWAYA, along with the other G7 Ministers, highlighted that the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific is becoming increasingly inseparable, and he reiterated the significance of achieving a just and lasting peace.

Minister IWAYA also stressed that North Korea's direct support of Russia's aggression against Ukraine represents a dangerous escalation of the conflict with grave consequences for the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Japan strongly urges North Korea to immediately cease all support of the war, which includes the withdrawal of its troops deployed to Russia.

In closing, I would like to once again introduce what Prime Minister ISHIBA has stressed at today's meeting. Diplomatic efforts are currently being made by various countries to achieve peace. We hope that these diplomatic efforts will lead to an end of the long-standing fighting and to a resolution of this difficult situation. In considering how to end this aggression, it is important to achieve a just and lasting peace as soon as possible, with the involvement of Ukraine itself. We must work in unity toward this goal.

Going forward, our country's support for Ukraine will remain unwavering. Japan is determined to work together with Ukraine so that peace will be restored to the beautiful land of Ukraine.

I thank you.