

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RYUTA MIZUUCHI,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan
to the OSCE
Reinforced Permanent Council, OSCE
23 February 2024
(3 min.30 seconds)**

Madam Chair,

Tomorrow will mark the two years since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war of aggression on Ukraine. Regrettably, its brutality continues to impose a humanitarian catastrophe on the innocent citizens and civilian infrastructures of Ukraine, and we are extremely saddened having to follow such depressive developments on the Ukrainian soil every day.

Taking this opportunity of the Reinforced Permanent Council, we call on Russia to stop such brutal actions immediately and withdraw from all the occupied territory of Ukraine. Japan reiterates the necessity to ensure that justice is fully restored, war crimes accounted for, and a just and lasting peace be brought back to Ukraine. Japan will continue to make concerted efforts, together with the international community whose fundamental principle is the rule of law and human dignity, in order to reach where we should belong.

Likewise, Japan once again expresses its support for the people of Ukraine, who are defending themselves and their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity in accordance with the UN Charter and relevant international laws – against aggression and unjustifiable violence. We remain with Ukraine and will stand by

Ukraine till the moment that the justice prevails.

Madam Chair, dear colleagues,

On Monday, Madam Helga Schmid and I exchanged notes on our first SPU project for strengthening capacity of National Police of Ukraine to combat human trafficking, on top of our previous support to Ukraine. We sincerely hope that women and children, the particularly vulnerable in times of war, will be fully protected and their dignity as humans be firmly secured.

On 19th February, Japan and Ukraine held the “Conference for Promotion of Economic Reconstruction” in Tokyo. Japan has its own expertise to build and nurture peace and prosperity out of the devastation of war. If you add on top of that our experiences to overcome a terrifying natural disaster after another in the last decades, we firmly believe that Japan can play a major role at the time Ukraine stands up for future reconstruction of devastated landscapes, human needs and infrastructure.

We very much hope that the joint endeavors made in Tokyo under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Kishida and Ukraine’s Prime Minister Kateryna Shmyhal will receive a positive echo by all friends and partners of Ukraine and encourage them to booster their support to the Ukrainian people and the Government, in any form of assistance that Ukraine urgently needs.

Madam Chair,

Although we handed over our G7 Presidency to Italy from January this year, we remain committed to upholding the international order based on rule of law and other universal values, and building

on the achievements under Japan's G7 Presidency of last year. We will monitor closely the involvement of DPRK in support of Russia against Ukraine and Russia's assistance to DPRK in violation of relevant UNSC resolutions, and take appropriate actions wherever necessary.

Once again, we reiterate our view that justice will prevail in our joint endeavor to restore peace in Ukraine and other parts of the world. Let us work together towards that goal.

Slava Ukraine!

I thank you.