

**Statement by H. E. Mr. SHIMADA Tomoaki
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
at the 32nd OSCE Ministerial Council
December 4th, 2025**

Madam Chair, Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Council. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Chair country, Finland, as well as the Troika, the hosting country Austria, and the OSCE Secretariat, for their efforts in preparing and hosting this gathering.

Today, the free, open, and stable international order that we have long cherished is again facing profound challenges due to historical shifts in the balance of power and the intensifying geopolitical competition.

Under such circumstance, Japan believes that the importance of the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act is once again becoming clear. Whether in the Euro-Atlantic or in the Indo-Pacific, where Japan is located, these principles must be fully respected and adhered to throughout the world. We must redouble our efforts to protect them.

Excellencies,

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundations of the international order. We must bring an early end

to this war, which, tramples upon the Helsinki Principles, and achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine through the unity of the international community and diplomatic efforts. Japan will also continue to provide strong support to Ukraine, including assistance for recovery and reconstruction.

Japan is also deeply concerned about the advancement of military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. These activities do not only deteriorate the security situation in the Euro-Atlantic but also threaten the security in the Indo-Pacific and other regions. We urge Russia and North Korea to immediately cease all such actions that create tensions across regions.

Turning our eyes to the Indo-Pacific, China has been continuing its unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East and South China Seas.

Meanwhile, North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities are developing, funded by malicious cyber activities including cryptocurrency thefts and foreign currency earnings from its IT workers. North Korea has also been continuing its ballistic missile launches including recent ones over the past two months. The complete denuclearization in accordance with the UNSC resolutions remains important.

No attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force or intimidation shall be tolerated anywhere on Earth. Regarding North Korea, we call for the international community to fully implement all relevant UNSC resolutions. Furthermore, we would like to ask for your continued understanding and cooperation for the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

Excellencies,

Now that the inseparability of security in the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific has become apparent, it is more essential than ever for participating states and partners to strengthen dialogue and cooperation towards resolving common challenges.

In this spirit, later in the plenary session, Japan will issue a joint statement with Asian partner countries and many participating states, affirming our commitment to strengthening relations between the OSCE with Asian partners.

Since 1992, Japan, as the oldest Asian partner country, has cooperated with the OSCE, contributing along with other partner countries to its activities. Through the participation in the OSCE, which has the vital mission to promote dialogue and confidence-building, Japan stands ready to continue its steadfast contribution to peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community.

Thank you for your attention.