

【Check Against Delivery】

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
on “Russia’s on-going aggression against Ukraine”
Permanent Council, OSCE
14 December 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Distinguished Colleagues,

Since this is our first time to take the floor after the Ministerial Council, we would like to thank North Macedonia for their warm hospitality and to praise their role in leading discussions under these difficult circumstances. We are very much looking forward to working closely with North Macedonia next year as the chair of the Asian Partners Meeting, following Poland, the current chair of the Meeting. We also would like to welcome Malta as the 2024 chair of the Permanent Council.

Mr. Chair,

On 6 December, Prime Minister Kishida, as chair of the G7 this year, held his last G7 leaders’ meeting in a video conference format. At the beginning of the meeting, with the attendance of President Zelenskyy, the G7 leaders agreed that the G7 solidarity with Ukraine remains unwavering, despite the escalating tensions in the Middle East, and that they will continue to promote sanctions against Russia and coordinated support for Ukraine.

In the conference, the G7 leaders also discussed the situation in the Middle East. They confirmed that the G7 will continue to take the lead in calming down the situation and providing assistance to its people.

The G7 leaders further discussed a wide range of issues, including efforts to achieve safe, secure and trustworthy AI, climate change, economic resilience and economic security. They also confirmed that unity with countries of the Global South is of critical importance in considering a new international order.

Next year, Italy will take over the G7 Presidency. Japan, as an active G7 member, will spare no effort to cooperate with Italy and will actively address the situation in Ukraine and other important issues.

Mr. Chair,

In this G7 teleconference, Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan has decided to provide an additional assistance of approximately \$1 billion, including humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction assistance, and expressed that it is preparing to provide credit enhancement to the World Bank loan, which together with this additional assistance will comprise a total of \$4.5 billion, reiterating that the G7 stands with Ukraine.

In February next year, Japan is going to hold the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Reconstruction with the involvement of the private sector to demonstrate the importance of public-private partnership in providing support.

Japan remains strongly committed to supporting Ukraine.

Thank you.