

Remarks by Yutaka IIMURA,  
Special Representative of the Government of Japan for the Middle  
East and Europe  
at the 20th OSCE Ministerial Council,  
in Kyiv, Ukraine on December 6, 2013

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On the occasion of the 20th Ministerial Council in this historic city of Kyiv, I would like to express my deepest respect to Chairman, H.E. Mr. Leonid KOZHARA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, for his leadership.

Mr. Chairman,  
Before starting my remarks, I would like to touch upon currently ongoing events in Ukraine. Japan has been paying close attention to the situation involving protest movements in Kiev. Japan condemns all the violence used in the past week. Japan call upon all parties to act with restraint, to uphold the democratic principles of expression and peaceful assembly, and to establish immediate dialogue to facilitate a mutually acceptable solution. As Foreign Minister Kishida stated during his visit to Ukraine in August, the Government of Japan will continue to emphasize the importance of further democratization for the development of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

- In today's increasingly globalized and multi-polar world, though we see higher living standards, as well as peace and stability in some parts of the globe, we also see political turmoil, instability and even violence in other parts of the world, such as in the Middle East. Meanwhile, in East Asia, the regional balance of power is rapidly changing. While globalization has brought about a dynamic economic development in most countries, relations between nations have deteriorated rather than improved in the last several years.
- Asia faces numerous emerging threats. In addition to North Korea's nuclear

development, the advancement of its missile capabilities, and other provocative actions which are already decades-old, international terrorism, cyber attacks and other emerging threats are also destabilizing the region.

- In an age of globalization and interconnectedness, these threats are without borders and no region can be completely safe from them. An event occurring in one part of the world can have significant impacts on other regions.
- In other words, no nation can maintain its peace and security alone. It is therefore all the more important for the international community to work together to deal with conflicts and destabilizing situations through cooperation among allies and partners, as well as by engaging in U.N. collective security measures such as peacekeeping operations. In this sense, Japan attaches great importance on strengthened cooperation with the OSCE, which is the security cooperation organization with the largest number of member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

- With the new government led by Prime Minister Abe in place, we intend to be a more “Proactive Contributor to International Peace,” in cooperation with our partners not only in East Asia but also in other parts of the world.
- In particular, Japan will do its utmost to contribute to humanitarian assistance and to peace-building efforts. One example of such efforts is the large-scale disaster relief operation deployed for the Philippines, which was recently hit by Typhoon Haiyan. Another is our assistance to the Syrian refugees. We have already contributed a total amount of 280 million US dollars to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people in the civil war. The contribution to the Palestinian economic and social development is also another example. In addition to our bilateral cooperation amounting to 1.4 billion U.S. dollars since the establishment of the Palestinians Authority, Japan and other East Asian countries are initiating the CEAPAD process, or the Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development. In February this year, Japan hosted its first ministerial CEAPAD meeting, to be followed by the second in Indonesia early next year. These countries in East Asia are expressing strong political will to cooperate amongst themselves to better contribute to the international efforts for peace in the Middle East by providing economic assistance to Palestine.

Mr. Chairman,

- Regarding the security environment of East Asia itself, ensuring maritime security is especially important and urgent. Freedom of navigation is the very basis of global peace and prosperity. Keeping the seas in East Asia open and safe is not only in the interest of the countries in the region, but of all countries in the world, including OSCE members.
- In this sense, we cannot accept any unilateral action to change the status quo by force. We would like to reaffirm the critical importance for all countries to

abide by the international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to resolve conflicts peacefully. In other words, we want to stress the importance of uninterrupted flow of maritime commerce and freedom of flight in international airspace. We will do our utmost in cooperation with the international community to maintain and promote maritime security.

Mr. Chairman,

- In concluding my remarks, let me say a few words on our cooperation with the OSCE. Our efforts to contribute proactively to international peace, some examples of which I have already mentioned, are in line with the guiding principles of the OSCE. For this reason, Japan will continue to support the activities of the OSCE. We consider the OSCE a partner in confronting global security challenges.
- One example of this partnership is the provision of financial assistance this year to the Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan, which aims to contribute to the stability of Central Asia by building the capacity to crack down on illegal drug trafficking and by cutting off the funding sources of terrorists in Central Asia.
- This is just one example of the mutually beneficial nature of Japan and the OSCE working together. We will continue exploring other areas of cooperation with your organization.
- As announced at the OSCE-Australia Conference in March, Japan will host a conference of the OSCE and Asian Partners in 2014.
- The details of this conference are currently being worked out. Japan looks forward to holding a fruitful conference, which we will strive to do by considering the interests and needs of all relevant countries and by taking into consideration the experiences and expertise of the OSCE. Japan counts on your continued support in making this conference a successful one.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(End)