

**Statement by Mr. Yoji MUTO,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the 22nd OSCE Ministerial Council, in Belgrade, Serbia
On December 3 and 4, 2015**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,

Opening Remarks

● I would like to express my appreciation to OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, IVICA DAČIĆ and OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL LAMBERTO ZANNIER for exercising their leadership toward holding the OSCE Ministerial Council.

(Series of Terrorist Attacks)

● On behalf of the Japanese Government and people of Japan, I would first like to pray for the souls of and offer our sincerest condolence to the victims of the shooting incident in California and of the terrorist attack on the Russian airplane as well as series of terrorist acts in Paris and other places.

Security of Europe and Asia is indivisible- ensuring the Rule of Law

(Reaffirming basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act)

● Amid increasingly severe security environment in recent years both in Europe and Asia, unilateral attempts to change the status quo, ignoring the rule of law, have been seen in respective regions. Given the diversified threats such as terrorism and cyber, security of Europe and Asia is becoming increasingly indivisible. No one country can maintain peace and stability on its own any more.

● The international community working together to proactively create peace and stability – this is what Japan has been upholding under the policy of “proactive contribution to peace,” based on the principle of international cooperation and also the idea valued by the OSCE, which upholds inclusiveness, collaboration, and confidence building. Japan believes that the

OSCE, a forum where countries with various views work together to build confidence, can be a powerful tool to resolve problems facing the international community. That is why we stated in our National Security Strategy that Japan will further contribute to peace and stability of the international community together with the OSCE.

- This year marks the 40th anniversary since the Helsinki Final Act was adopted in 1975. It is extremely important for us to reaffirm basic principles in the Act such as sovereign equality and peaceful settlement of disputes in achieving international peace and stability.

(Situation in Ukraine and Japan's Contribution)

- Over the past 40 years, the OSCE has played a significant role in improving security environment through confidence-building. However, the situation, in which the principles valued by the OSCE may be undermined, has emerged in Ukraine, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea.
- Anything can still happen to the situation in Ukraine. As the oldest OSCE Partner for Co-operation and as a country committed to ensuring the rule of law, Japan regards the issue of Ukraine as its own problem. That is why we are making financial and personnel contribution to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM), which is playing a significant role in stabilizing Ukraine. Japan sent an expert to the SMM in August, the only country among Partners for Co-operation. This is a good example showing Japan-OSCE cooperation produced tangible results, and we believe that cooperation by various actors in confidence-building will help enhance confidence in the activities of the OSCE.

(Security Environment in Asia)

- In the East China Sea and the South China Sea, unilateral attempts to change the status quo, based on own assertions incompatible with existing international order, have become obvious. Japan would like to encourage peaceful settlement under international law in cooperation with the international community, including Europe.

Approach to Global Challenges such as Terrorism

(Counter-terrorism Measures)

- The series of terrorist attacks by the ISIL and other terrorist groups have reminded us of the importance of international efforts to fight terrorism. Since Terrorism poses a threat to our

shared value, the international community should take concerted measures against terrorism.

- Japan is determined to fulfill its responsibility for the international community toward creating societies in which measures are taken to prevent and eradicate terrorism, and deter violent extremism in close collaboration with relevant countries. Our financial contribution to the OSCE Border Management Staff College is an example of cooperation based on the determination.

(Response to the issue of Immigrants)

- We express our sincere respect and solidarity to European countries for extending a helping hand to immigrants in need. In addition to 810 million dollars for supporting refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Syria and Iraq, Japan is provide Serbia, Macedonia and others with about 2.5 billion dollars as announced in September and 2.7 million dollars in humanitarian aid for cold protection.

Concluding Remarks - Proactive Contribution to Peace -

- Ladies and gentlemen, moving forward, Japan hereby expresses its strong determination to make efforts to achieve peace and stability of the international community with the OSCE as a partner sharing fundamental values such as freedom, democracy and basic human rights under the policy of “proactive contribution to peace” based on the principle of international cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention.

(End)