

Since this message was recorded in mid- February, in light of the subsequent changes in the situation, the latest position of the Government of Japan on the situation in Ukraine, Japan-Russia relations, and the temporary detention of a Japanese diplomat in China in the annex was read out after the message.

Message from Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio for the 3rd Tokyo Global Dialogue

President Sasaë, distinguished participants,

It is my great pleasure that the world-acclaimed Japan Institute of International Affairs is holding the 3rd Tokyo Global Dialogue this year featuring numerous participants from around the world.

The regional security environment is rapidly getting more challenging with North Korea's nuclear and missile development, unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East and South China seas, and heightened tensions caused by changes in the military balance. This region finds itself on the front line of US-China competition. We are also monitoring the situation around Ukraine with grave concern as a matter which can affect the international order.

Amidst an increasingly severe and complex international situation, I have emphasized universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and I am determined to pursue “realism diplomacy for a new era” that adheres to a thorough pragmatism, while firmly holding aloft the flag of ideals for the future.

Based on the outcomes of the Summit Video Teleconference Meeting with President Biden, we will make steady progress in further strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-US Alliance. We will draw up the new National Security

Strategy, the National Defense Program Guidelines, and the Mid-Term Defense Program by the end of this year, and fundamentally reinforce Japan's defense capabilities.

It is important to establish a free and open rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region, a core of the world's vitality. We will be further reinforcing coordination with allies and like-minded partners to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Regarding the Quad, a key driving force for the achievement of the vision, I will be hosting a Summit Meeting in the first half of this year in Japan. Together with the other leaders, I hope to make this summit an opportunity to elevate Quad cooperation to the next level.

With countries around the world engaging in fierce competition to secure strategic goods and acquire key technologies, economic security is both a challenge we must address without delay and a central element in global rules for the 21st century.

We will be safeguarding our own security while seeking to tap into global growth. We will also be actively working in collaboration with the United States, Australia, India and other willing countries to develop the international rules for this approach.

As a prime minister hailing from Hiroshima, I will lead international efforts towards a "world without nuclear weapons," and go beyond that to assume a leading role in addressing climate change and international health issues.

Let me conclude my remarks by hoping this Dialogue will contribute to Japan's foreign and security policies through your lively discussions and policy recommendations.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

(annex)

The position of the Government of Japan on the situation in Ukraine, Japan-Russia relations, and the temporary detention of a Japanese diplomat in China.

1 The situation in Ukraine and Japan-Russia relations

Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force. It is an act that undermines the very foundations of the international order. It constitutes a clear violation of international law, and is totally unacceptable. Japan strongly condemns it in the strongest terms. Now is the time for us to unite in taking resolute actions in order to fully defend the foundations of the international order. Japan will decisively act to demonstrate this stance and show clearly that this kind of outrage comes with high price.

The international community believes that, because of Russia's aggression, it can no longer carry on relations with Russia as they have been. Japan, together with the G7 countries and the international community, will impose stringent sanctions against Russia.

With regard to Russia, Japan has persistently advanced negotiations under the policy of resolving the Northern Territories issue, the most outstanding issue between the two countries, and concluding a peace treaty. However, we must act resolutely in response to Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine in solidarity with the G7 and the international community.

There is no change in Japan's stance regarding the issue of the Northern Territories and in the desire to respond to the wishes of the elderly former island residents. However, in light of the current situation, I am not in a situation where I am able to make any statements regarding the prospects for peace treaty negotiations.

I hope that the day will come soon when Russia will take the condemnation of the international community seriously, stop aggression, work toward a diplomatic solution to the problem, and return to normal relations with the international community, including Japan.

2 Temporary detention of a Japanese diplomat in China

Recently, a Japanese diplomat was temporarily detained by the Chinese authority against its will in Beijing. This is a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and cannot be overlooked. It is absolutely unacceptable. The Government of Japan strongly urges China to express apologies and take concrete measures to prevent recurrence.