

**Video message by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
TAKAGI at the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative
(PSVI) Conference in London**

November 29th, 2022

Excellencies and distinguished participants,
I am TAKAGI Kei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Firstly, I would like to thank the UK for their leadership on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. I am so honoured to be able to convey a video message to you on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Sexual violence in conflict is a serious crime that threatens the international peace and security of today. I am very concerned about the reports of allegations of sexual violence by Russian soldiers in Ukraine. To prevent this violence, it is important to punish perpetrators and end the culture of impunity by strengthening the judiciary. From this perspective, Japan continues to support this initiative.

As an example of Japan's support for the initiative, Japan is committed to strengthening the rule of law throughout the international community. As the largest financial contributor to the International Criminal Court (ICC), Japan is supporting the operation of the court in multiple ways including through human resources and financial contributions.

Since 2014, Japan has also supported the work of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), through which we provide support to strengthen judiciaries to prosecute perpetrators, in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa, Somalia, Lebanon and Iraq.

In addition to institutional development, it is of utmost importance to provide prompt and comprehensive assistance to survivors who are suffering right now. Japan has also contributed to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims to provide various support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, including through support for awareness-raising activities to end discrimination against survivors within their

communities. We also provide medical assistance and economic empowerment support for the survivors through international organisations such as UN Women and UNFPA. In addition, we have contributed a total of 6 million euros to the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence since 2020, and have been involved in its operation as a board member to support survivors.

As a champion country of the initiative, Japan will continue to provide varied support and make great efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict in cooperation with the UK and other like-minded countries.

Thank you very much for your attention. I wish you have a successful and fruitful meeting.