

# Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Session on the occasion of the “Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction”

February.2024

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

## 1 Date, Venue and Speaker

● **Date and venue** February 19 at the Keidanren Kaikan in Tokyo

### ● **Speaker**

【from the Japanese side】

• H.E. Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

### ● **Moderator**

• Ms. HORIBA Akiko, Program Director and Senior Program Officer, THE SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION

### ● **Audience**

Audience for the Leaders’ session (including diplomatic corps), displaced persons residing in Japan, Ukrainians active in Japan, aid organizations for Ukrainians (ex. Japanese Organization of Mental Health and Educational Agencies/Ukraine Mental Health Interaction Center “Himawari”), Experts in WPS etc.

【from the Ukrainian side】

• H.E. Ms. Yuliia SVYRYDENKO, First Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Economy of Ukraine (video message)

• Ms. Anna YURCHENKO, Deputy Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine

• Ms. Lenna KOSZARNY, Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Horizon Capital

• Ms. Natalia KARBOWSKA, Director on strategic development, Ukrainian Women’s Fund (online)

## 2 Discussions

### (1) **Speech from Foreign Minister KAMIKAWA**

- I have become convinced of the importance of "reintegration" of the Ukrainian people on three levels, namely "reintegration" of family, community and the entire people of Ukraine.
- In order for Ukraine to regain its beautiful land and for the country as a whole to achieve vibrant growth, the leadership of women and the power of children, who will bear the future, are indispensable.
- In order to achieve this major goal of "reintegration", Japan must support the self-sustaining development of the Ukrainian, will provide support from the public and private sectors working together in all-Japan manner and must work with our partners in the international community including the G7.
- We are launching a new platform to promote WPS, “WPS HIMAWARI friends network” (HIMAWARI: Sunflower in Japanese). By expanding this network internationally, we will move forward the international efforts of WPS in Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction.



## (2)Speechs from the Ukrainian side

### ● Impact of Russian aggression, situation of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons)

- Since the beginning of the war, women and girls in Ukraine have faced increased risks of gender-based violence. They are exposed to a risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, exploitation due to lack of basic safety and security, loss of regular income, and forced displacement. **As of October 2023, over half of the 3.7 million officially registered IDPs are women.** (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- As of April 2023, **72% of people registered as unemployed are women.** Moreover, of the IDPs employed before the full-fledged invasion, **45% of women as compared to 27% of men, still do not have a job.** (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- Due to family separation, the lack of kindergartens and schools for full-time attendance, the loss or partial loss of employment, and reduced access to social services, women and adolescent girls have an increased burden of household and care work. As of late October 2023, **women spent 16 hours per week more than men on unpaid domestic and care work.** (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- I saw with my own eyes how women IDPs are living in new locations. Without any income and job opportunities, under stress to survive every day. I would like to ask you while looking at the big picture, **think about real pictures, real people behind the number, real women and their stories.** (Ms. KARBOWSKA)

### ● Employment and gender pay gap, women's participation in business

- **Currently, gender pay gap in Ukraine is at 18.6%. We've seen a positive trends and hope to reduce this gap to 13.6% by 2030.** (H.E. Ms. SVYRYDENKO)
- **We're seeing a trend where women are increasingly choosing stereotypically male professions (ex.deminers).** In 2017, the list of professions that were previously prohibited for women was abolished. (H.E. Ms. SVYRYDENKO)
- **56% of new entrepreneurs last year were women.** The number of female company executives has also increased to 31%. **But women on average receive less funding from the government.** Supporting women's entrepreneurship is definitely a significant contribution to our economic and physical security. We can finance our security and defense sector solely with our own resources — through taxes paid by businesses, including women-owned businesses. (H.E. Ms. SVYRYDENKO)
- **In 2023, 2/3 of people that find a new job in Ukraine are women.** In the IT sector, 1/3 of the IT sector is women, and that's a number that has tripled over the last decade. (Ms. KOSZARNY)

## (2) Speeches from the Ukrainian side(continued)

### ● Actions for the future

- To ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are incorporated in the recovery process. Ukraine cannot be rebuilt without women. Without their voice, without their mother's care, without their vision of a happy future for Ukraine. (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- If we will summarize what women in Ukraine right now need to be the part of restoration, first of all, it is what the government itself can provide in terms of security measures for them and for their children. For example, I have two children, two years old and five years old. And since my nearby kindergarten has a shelter, in this case, I can be the Deputy Minister, I can be in Japan, when my children are in the kindergarten. (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- It is important that we continue having dialogues with Ukrainian women representing diverse groups. To ensure that their voices and visions of the future recovery are heard. (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- It is important to create spaces for women to talk about their visions and their solutions. We need strong civil society, women's organizations to work with the government. Help us create and maintain platforms for dialogues and advocacy, the networks like Minister Kamikawa announced today. (Ms. KARBOWSKA)
- Participating in action to invest in women-led businesses and women-led initiatives and raising the fund for Ukraine. Financial resources will be put to work now in Ukraine, particularly focused on gender, smart investing and women-led businesses. (Ms. KOSZARNY)
- Ukrainian government, with a support of women's civil society organizations and development partners, facilitates dialogues with national stakeholders, international partners and with Ukrainian women representing diverse groups. (Ms. YURCHENKO)
- We need platforms for communication with the government and international partners. (Ms. KARBOWSKA)