

Statement by Ms. IKUINA Akiko

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

at the High-Level Segment of the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

Mr. High Commissioner,

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies,

It is my great honor to have this opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Today, large numbers of people across the globe are facing dire circumstances. This includes those affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which has been ongoing for three years now. It also includes those affected by the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Gaza Strip, and the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, among others. Japan renews its determination to strive for a world where the "human dignity" of every person is protected and strengthened.

The international order based on fundamental values, such as freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law, is being challenged.

Mr. President,

The protection of human rights is the basic responsibility of all nations. It is important for the international community to continue dialogue and cooperation to support the fulfilment of this responsibility.

In this regard, Japan has drafted and submitted resolutions on the human rights situation in Cambodia and on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by Hansen's disease.

In addition, Japan has supported the adoption and implementation of National Action Plans on business and human rights in 15 countries in cooperation with UNDP.

At the same time, we should speak out firmly against serious human rights violations.

Japan remains seriously concerned about the human rights situation in China. Freedom, respect for human rights, and the rule of law must be protected in China, including in Hong Kong, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Tibet Autonomous Region as well.

Japan is also seriously concerned and deplors that there are still no signs of improvement in the situation in Myanmar. We will continue to work closely with the international community, including ASEAN, and make every effort to improve the situation in Myanmar.

With the aging of the abductees and their families, the abductions issue is a humanitarian and time sensitive issue with no time to spare. Japan will continue to strongly urge Pyongyang to return all the abductees to Japan immediately, in close cooperation with the international community.

Mr. President,

Improvement of the global human rights situation cannot be achieved overnight. Japan, as a member of the Human Rights Council, renews its strong commitment to upholding the free and open international order based on the rule of law.

Thank you for your attention.

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