

**Remarks by Masaharu KOHNO,
Special Representative of the Government of Japan for
the Middle East and Europe
at the 21st OSCE Ministerial Council, in Basel, Switzerland
on December 4 and 5, 2014**

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,

(Introduction)

●I would like to express my appreciation to the Chair, Switzerland, for exercising leadership in the run-up to the Ministerial Council. Japan particularly extends deep appreciation to Mr. BURKHALTER, President of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of Switzerland for showing the hospitality to each delegation.

(Security of Europe and Asia, Japan's Contribution to Ukrainian Situation)

●There are common security challenges shared by many regions that include transnational threats such as terrorist attacks, weapons of mass destruction, and infectious diseases as well as risks associated with free access to international public goods such as seas, cyber space, and outer space. In response to these challenges, Japan values the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and thinks that the entire international community should voice opposition to any unilateral attempt to change the status quo in any region. From that perspective, Japan considers the situation in Ukraine an extremely important issue not only for Europe, but also for the entire international community, including Asia.

●Japan is deeply concerned about the violation of the Minsk cease-fire agreement and intensified combats seen in some parts of Ukraine with casualties increasing almost every day. It was highly regrettable that on November 2, a so-called "election" was held in those areas under the control of separatists. These elections, which were not regulated by Ukrainian law, are illegitimate and unacceptable.

●Japan strongly demands that all the relevant parties abide by the cease-fire agreement and strive to solve the issue peacefully in a way that fully respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

●Japan, as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" under the principle of

international cooperation, has provided economic support and support to restore Eastern Ukraine for the peace and stability of Ukraine. Japan also has made various personnel and financial contributions to the National Dialogue project, the Special Monitoring Mission, and election observing missions through the OSCE. Japan will continue to play a role in resolving these issues in a peaceful and diplomatic manner while emphasizing cooperation among G7 countries in collaboration with the OSCE.

(Importance of Collaboration between the OSCE and Japan)

●The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security has a commonality with Japan's diplomatic and security approach.

●Japan considers the OSCE a partner to confronting global security challenges. We will work with the OSCE to make further contributions to securing the peace, stability, and prosperity of the region and the world.

●In June this year, Japan hosted a conference of OSCE and Asian partners in Tokyo. We would like to reiterate our appreciation to each country and the OSCE Secretariat for their cooperation. It is recognized that the security of Europe and of Asia are indivisible and that there is room for deeper cooperation between Europe and Asia by learning from each other.

(Track-Record and Future Policy of Cooperation on Protective Measures against Possible Terrorist Attacks and other Issues between Japan and the OSCE)

●Specific examples of cooperation between Japan and the OSCE vary, from the prevention of terrorism by strengthening border control through financial contributions to the OSCE Staff College, to supporting female entrepreneurs in Central Asia through financial contributions to the project for the Development of Women Entrepreneurship through SME and Small Handicraft Businesses Support, to financial and personnel contributions to activities undertaken by the OSCE to promote national dialogue and build confidence, including for minority groups in Ukraine. Moving forward, Japan intends to further promote cooperation with the OSCE in Japan's fields of expertise in order to respond to global challenges in an appropriate manner.

Thank you for your kind attention.