

**Statement by Mr. Nobuo KISHI,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council, in Hamburg, Germany
on December 8 and 9, 2016**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants,

(Opening Remarks)

- I would first like to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency to Germany and the OSCE secretariat.

(Terrorism, Refugees, Afghanistan)

- Over this year, the security environment has become increasingly severe both in Europe and Asia. Following successive tragedies caused by terrorist attacks in Europe, 28 innocent people including seven Japanese aid workers were deprived of their lives in the attack of Dhaka in July. No country is immune from terrorism, so we must counter such evil violence. Japan continues to help boost the capacity of the international community. Through the OSCE, we continue our contribution for the Border Management Staff College and support the training for officials of Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.
- The world faces with a serious humanitarian crisis through the huge movement of refugees and migrants. The situation requires the international community to demonstrate solidarity. To this end, Japan announced to provide 2.8 billion dollars over the three years from 2016

for humanitarian assistance to the refugees and immigrants. Japan will continue to work proactively in close cooperation with the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

(The rule of law: Europe, Asia)

- We are concerned about the continuing situation in Ukraine. The full implementation of the Minsk Agreement by all parties concerned is essential. The problem surrounding Ukraine is a matter of principle to maintain a rules-based international order. Japan extends assistance to Ukraine approximately 1.85 billion dollars, as largest bilateral contributors, to support domestic reforms. We highly appreciate the role of the OSCE, especially the activities of the Special Monitoring Mission. A Japanese expert is thus sent to the Mission to join this endeavor.

- In Asia, North Korea's provocative series of nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, in clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions, pose serious threat to the international community. The abduction issues, which involves an infringement of fundamental human rights, remains unresolved. In the East China Sea and the South China Sea, attempts backed by force to unilaterally change the status quo continue. The rule of law, which is the mainstay of the OSCE, has been challenged here too. The international community needs to speak as one and stop these moves.

Mr. Chairman,

(Concluding Remarks)

- With the world beset by increased uncertainty, the true value of the OSCE will be tested. Japan intends to continue working towards the peace and stability of the international community together with the Member States. We will extend our fullest cooperation and support to Austria, which will assume the presidency in 2017.

Thank you for your kind attention.