

Statement by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
Mr. Manabu HORII,
Ukraine Reform Conference in Copenhagen, 27 June 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to participate in the Ukraine Reform Conference on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Japan values the Government of Ukraine's sincere efforts in addressing the reform agenda, which was announced to the international community, respecting fundamental values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law, as Prime Minister Groysman has just explained.

Since the Conference in London last year, the Government, the “Verkhovna Rada,” and the people of Ukraine have made progress in reforms in various fields ranging from social security, including the healthcare and pension systems, to economic areas, such as state-owned company reform, as well as to the judicial system.

Above all else, anti-corruption measures are very important for advancing Ukraine’s reforms. Japan welcomes the adoption by Ukraine’s “Verkhovna Rada” of the law to establish the High Anti-Corruption Court as an important step forward.

Reform never comes to an end for any country. Presidential and parliamentary elections will be held next year in Ukraine. We all call on the Government of Ukraine to continue advancing domestic reform without delay.

It is not only the Ukrainian people who pay attention to the progress of reform in Ukraine but also international society.

At the same time, I would like to remind everyone that the issues Ukraine faces, including the Crimean issue and the situation in eastern Ukraine, are challenges to the rule-based international order. In addition, I would like to mention that these are not only a problem for Europe, but for the entire global community, including Asia.

As each representative has stated today, the G7 countries, the EU and the international community respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and are providing strong support to Ukraine. Japan has committed assistance worth approximately 1.86 billion U.S. dollars to Ukraine, and continues to contribute to infrastructure improvement and the reconstruction of eastern Ukraine as well as to humanitarian assistance.

Moreover, the role of the Ambassadors of the G7 countries in Kiev is worthy of mention. They have been continuously supporting Ukraine's reform efforts in close cooperation with the Government of Ukraine.

Ukraine is a future-oriented partner, sharing fundamental values with Japan. Japan, along with the G7 countries, will continue to cooperate with Ukraine in its efforts to achieve reform as long as Ukraine goes along with us.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(End)