

**Statement by Japan at the 21th Regular Meeting of the
Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation
(HCoC)**

30 May 2022, Vienna

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the incoming Chair, Ambassador Umar of Nigeria, and assure you of Japan's continuous support for the Chair's activities.

I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Ainchil of Argentina, for his excellent leadership over the past year.

Additionally, I wish to thank the Austrian Government for its ongoing contribution as the Immediate Central Contact.

Mr. Chair,

The HCoC is the only international framework promoting transparency and confidence building measures to address the issue of ballistic missile proliferation. The HCoC Participating States, pursuant to its establishing purposes, have been continuing their efforts to promote the security of all states and to contribute to regional and national security by fostering mutual trust through the implementation of political and diplomatic measures.

Despite the tireless efforts of Participating States during two decades, we are facing two enormous issues to be addressed by the entire international community. One is the multiple ballistic missile tests by North Korea, and the other is the ongoing Russia's unjustified military

aggression against Ukraine.

Japan is deeply concerned about North Korea's continued development of nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities. Especially since the beginning of this year, North Korea has repeatedly launched ballistic missiles with a high frequency and in new ways. The series of actions of North Korea threaten the peace and security of Japan, the region and international community.

Therefore, Japan strongly urges North Korea to fully comply with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and dismantle its nuclear weapons and its ballistic missiles of all ranges and any other weapons of mass destruction as well as related programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions.

Japan also emphasizes the critical importance for all States to fully implement all relevant UNSC resolutions and calls on all States to continue working collectively to this end. In this regard, Japan deeply regrets the result of the voting on the draft UNSC resolution on May 26 put forward by the U.S., and that the UNSC remained silent again in the face of numerous violations of its resolutions.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine infringes upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, constitutes a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force, and shakes the very foundations of the international order that forbids unilateral changes of the status quo by force. It is absolutely unacceptable and Japan condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the strongest terms. Japan has implemented unprecedented strong sanctions in collaboration with like-minded countries.

It has been reported that Russia's extensive use of ballistic missiles, including those with cluster munition warheads, is deplorable, causing a number of civilian casualties but also massive destruction across Ukraine.

Japan intends to further collaborate with the international community and contributes itself to resumption of international and regional security and stability. Japan reiterates solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine and urges Russia to immediately withdraw from Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

To mitigate threats posed by the missile proliferation, the HCoC should play a principal role globally in terms of transparency and confidence building.

In this respect, Japan has been actively supporting the HCoC since its establishment through outreach activities mainly in Asian countries and areas. In occasion of the 28th Asian Export Control Seminar held online in 15 to 17 February, we invited the Ambassador Ainchil as the Chairman of the HCoC to present its role and activities. Japan reiterates its gratitude to the outgoing Chair Ambassador Ainchil's contribution. Also, during the 17th Asia Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) on 16 and 17 March via teleconference, in cooperation with France we organized a session to discuss ways to further enhance the activities of the HCoC which commemorates the 20th anniversary this year.

Japan believes in the significance of universalization of the HCoC. We are committed to strengthening outreach activities particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing the significance of missile non-proliferation and its contribution to regional security through transparency and confidence building to non-participating states.

Equally important is an in-reach activity for the effort to improve the implementation of the Code, particularly in relation to Annual Declarations. Japan would like to take this opportunity to call upon Subscribing States which has not yet done so, to submit Annual Declarations as soon as possible.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, ballistic missile proliferation continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Therefore, at this annual Regular Meeting, it is critically important for all Subscribing States to reaffirm the importance of the HCoC and further promote concerted actions towards the nonproliferation of ballistic missiles.

Thank you.