

**Video Message by**  
**Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**  
**at the side event co-hosted with the Global Survivors Fund**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Together with the Global Survivors Fund, I am pleased to co-host the event again this year to deepen our understanding of the situation of victims and survivors of sexual violence in conflict.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately and seriously impacted survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Particularly in Ukraine, many women and girls are facing intolerable tragedy due to Russia's unjustified and unprovoked aggression. We must not overlook these situations.

Sexual violence in conflict is a serious human rights violation. It results in severe injury to the honor and dignity of victims and survivors. It has also impeded the economic independence of survivors. I would like to express my sincere respect once again for Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad, who stand up for these survivors, and for all of those who devote themselves to supporting the survivors.

Japan has been a strong supporter of this Fund since its establishment. We have contributed a total of six million euros to the Fund to date, including a recent contribution of an additional two million euros. Furthermore, Japan has been actively engaged in the Fund's operation as a board member. We have also been contributing to the creation of mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable by funding projects related to sexual violence in conflict, which are implemented by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

It is extremely important to put survivors of conflict-related sexual violence at the center of assistance processes and support those who have been enduring severe physical and psychological suffering. In order to eliminate sexual violence in conflict, we will continue to provide various forms of assistance in cooperation with all parties concerned.

I hope that today's event will be a great opportunity for many people to remind themselves of the importance of preventing the isolation of survivors and supporting their independence, and thereby contribute to illuminating the way forward to a better and brighter future for all.

Thank you very much for your attention.