

Video Message by Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
At an online discussion event on “A Just and Lasting Peace in Ukraine”

I would like to express my appreciation to Secretary of State Blinken for his initiative in organizing today's discussion.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundation of the international order, which the international community has built up over a long period of dedicated efforts and sacrifices. This aggression is a serious violation of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and other principles of international law including the UN Charter, and poses a clear challenge to the international order based on the rule of law. Unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, can never be tolerated anywhere in the world.

From this point of view, Japan has consistently and strongly condemned Russia, imposed strict sanctions against the country, and provided robust support for Ukraine. In order to bring Russia's aggression to an end as soon as possible, the international community should enhance its coordination more than ever and raise a united voice that unilateral change of the status quo by force is unacceptable.

At the Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly in February, which I attended, a resolution calling for "a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace" in Ukraine was adopted with the support of the overwhelming majority of all member states. The international community hopes that peace will come to Ukraine as soon as possible. But it must be not a mere ceasefire but a just peace based on the principles of the UN Charter. We should not allow the world to revert to the jungle, where brute force and coercion would prevail. We should protect the free and open international order based on the rule of law, in which all nations, large or small, can make decisions freely under international law.

From this perspective, during Prime Minister Kishida's recent visit to Ukraine, he conveyed to President Zelenskyy Japan's high regard for the Peace Formula that President Zelenskyy has been advocating as a path to a just peace.

In the G7 process, where Japan holds the Presidency this year, I chaired a G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in February, and G7 Foreign Ministers underlined their commitment to upholding the international order based on the rule of law and committed to actively working with Ukraine for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

In order to stop Russia's aggression as soon as possible, Japan, as the G7 Presidency, will maintain the unity of the G7 and other like-minded countries and promote strict sanctions against Russia and robust support for Ukraine.

At the upcoming G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano and G7 Hiroshima Summit, we would like to send a strong message to the world that the G7 will never tolerate unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force anywhere in the world or accept Russia's nuclear threats, let alone its use of nuclear weapons. The G7 is determined to uphold the international order based on the rule of law.