

Video message by State Minister for Foreign Affairs YAMADA  
at Online Summit of leaders of the member-states of the Core Group on the  
establishment of a Special Tribunal on the crime of aggression against Ukraine

I am Kenji Yamada, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

As Ukraine faces the great national challenge of Russia's aggression, I would like to express my utmost respect for the leadership of President Zelenskyy and the courage and perseverance of the Ukrainian people who are standing up to defend their homeland and freedom.

Russia's aggression is a serious violation of international law and must be held accountable. There must be no impunity for war crimes and other atrocities.

At the recent G7 meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano, Japan, as Chair of the G7, expressed the G7's commitment to holding those responsible to account consistent with international law, by international mechanisms including the International Criminal Court. Bearing this in mind, we will continue to work closely with Ukraine, the G7, and like-minded countries in order to gain broad support from the international community.

During Prime Minister Kishida's recent visit to Ukraine, he directly conveyed to President Zelenskyy Japan's determination to maintain severe sanctions against Russia and strong support for Ukraine, and reaffirmed Japan's solidarity with Ukraine.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit next week, Japan will continue to robustly support Ukraine and demonstrate to the international community its strong determination to uphold a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

Japan will continue to work together with Ukraine to restore peace to the beautiful land of Ukraine.

(END)