

Message from Prime Minister KISHIDA on the Occasion of the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the opening of the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe. I am honored that Japan has been invited to the Summit as an observer.

Japan shares the fundamental values and principles of the Council of Europe, such as human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, and as the only country in Asia with observer status, we have deepened our cooperation with the Council of Europe.

The world is facing multiple challenges, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, an outrageous act that threatens the very foundation of the international order. With the international community at an inflection point, the Council of Europe has an important role in setting rules for the international community.

I welcome the establishment of the Register of Damage caused by the Russia's aggression against Ukraine in preparation for this Summit. Japan intends to actively participate in future discussions.

The G7 Hiroshima Summit will take place in two days. At the Hiroshima Summit, which will be held when international community is at a historic turning point, Japan would like to demonstrate the G7's strong determination to uphold the free and open international order based on the rule of law, firmly rejecting any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force or the threat to use nuclear weapons, as Russia has done, or the use of nuclear weapons. With Russia's aggression against Ukraine being protracted, in order to end the aggression as soon as possible, we would like to reaffirm that the G7 and like-minded countries in Europe will remain united in imposing severe sanctions on Russia and strongly supporting Ukraine, and demonstrate our solidarity with Ukraine.