

## PNND Japan Statement at Russia's Aggression against Ukraine

Russia's aggression against Ukraine clearly infringes upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, constitutes a serious violation of international law prohibiting use of force, and is a grave breach of the United Nations Charter. Any unilateral change of the status quo by force is totally unacceptable. This is an extremely serious situation that shakes the foundation of international order not only in Europe but also in Asia. PNND Japan condemns the actions in the strongest terms.

President Putin recently stated that Russia remains one of the most powerful nuclear states, thus made a move that the use of nuclear force is an option by threatening with nuclear weapons, which is prohibited by international law and ordering his military to put Russia's nuclear deterrence forces on high alert.

In the Joint Statement issued in January 2022, the leaders of the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America for the first time in the history affirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Russia's move and President Putin's statement contradict own commitments, and we have to say this is extremely dangerous.

Moreover, Russia's military invasion of Ukraine clearly reneges the Budapest Memorandum, which has been promoting nuclear non-proliferation by assuring sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine by relevant states, thus this action cannot be overlooked in terms of future nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Nuclear weapons, if once used, will bring devastating consequences in large areas. As parliamentarians of the only country suffered by atomic bombings during wartime, who know the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, we strongly urges Russia to cease the attack and withdraw its forces back to Russian territory immediately.

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