

# ***The Weekly Observer***

Special Edition: Ukraine

March 13, 2022

*This special edition of the weekly newsletter covers Japanese news reports on the situation in Ukraine. Special focus will go to the Government of Japan's latest information regarding sanctions targeting Russia, the G7 meetings, a timeline of the events related to Ukraine this week, and a summary of the statements made this week by GOJ members and other Japanese politicians.*

## **By Content**

### **I. Government Measures**

1. Contents
2. Reactions

### **II. G7 Meetings**

1. G7 Leaders' Meeting
2. G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting

### **III. Timeline of Other Developments**

### **IV. Statements by Japanese Lawmakers**

1. Government of Japan
2. Other Notable Lawmakers

# I. Government Measures

## 1. Contents

### ❖ Assistance

- Provide **bulletproof vests, helmets, winter battle dress uniform, tents, cameras, medical supply, hygiene products, emergency rations and generators**
  - First round of provisions left for a neighboring country near Ukraine on **March 8**  
Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/08b.html>
  - Second round left on **March 10**  
Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/10c.html>
- Provide **emergency humanitarian assistance of \$100 million** in such areas as **health and medical care, food, protection of people** in Ukraine and neighboring countries through international organizations and others
  - **\$25.6 million** through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (shelter, non-food items, protection)
  - **\$15.1 million** through the International Committee of the Red Cross (health and medical care, non-food items, water and habitat, protection)
  - **\$14.2 million** through the UN Children's Fund (child protection, health and medical care, WASH, education)
  - **\$14 million** through the UN World Food Programme (food, logistics)
  - **\$12 million** through the International Organization for Migration (shelter, non-food items, health and medical care)
  - **\$5 million** through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (inter-agency coordination, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund)
  - **\$14.1 million** through Japanese NGOs (health and medical care, food, non-food items, WASH, shelter, protection)  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_003097.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003097.html)
- Provide **loans** to Ukraine of **at least \$100 million**
- Offer **visa extensions** to any Ukrainians in Japan who wish to receive one
- Promote **accepting evacuees** from Ukraine into Japan

### ❖ Financial measures

- Restrictions on transactions with **Russia's central bank**
- Sanctions that include **freezing of assets of 24 people related to the Government of Russia**, including **President Putin** and business oligarchs
  - The GOJ added **20 individuals and 2 organizations** on March 8  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3\\_000748.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000748.html)

- **Freezing of assets of 7 Russian banks in Japan** (VEB. RF, Promsvyazbank, Bank Rossiya, VTB Bank, Sovcombank, Novcombank and Bank Otkritie)
- Join in efforts to isolate Russia from the international financial system and the global economy such as by **excluding the 7 Russian banks from the SWIFT messaging system**
- **Prohibit the issuance and transaction of new Russian sovereign debt** in the primary and secondary market
  - **Sanctions on securities** having a shorter fixed maturity for certain designated banks already prohibited from issuing or offering securities in Japan
- ❖ **Export control**
  - **Sanctions on exports to 49 Russian military-related entities**, on exports of **controlled items** listed on the internationally agreed list and of **other dual-use goods such as semiconductors**, on exports to Russia of equipment for refining petroleum, etc.
  - **Ban exports of oil refining equipment** to Russia  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3\\_000748.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000748.html)
- ❖ **Suspension of visa issuance**
  - Suspension of the issuance of **entry visas to Japan** for designated individuals related to Russia
- ❖ **Belarus**
  - **Suspend visa issuance to Japan** for designated individuals related to Belarus
  - Sanctions on designated individuals and entities including **President Lukashenko**
    - The GOJ added **12 individuals and 10 organizations** on March 8  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3\\_000748.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000748.html)
  - **Restrict payments through and limit capital transactions** (pre-vetting) through **3 Belarusian banks** (Belagroprombank, Bank Dabrabyt and the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus)  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_009301.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_009301.html)
  - Impose sanctions on **exports to Belarusian military-related entities and on exports of controlled items** listed on the internationally agreed list and of **other dual-use goods** such as semiconductors
- ❖ **“Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic”**
  - Suspend **entry visa issuance to Japan** for 30 individuals from the two breakaway republics and freeze assets held by these individuals in Japan
  - **Prohibit imports from and exports to** the two breakaway republics

Source:

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/20220308\\_Response\\_following\\_Russian\\_aggression\\_against\\_Ukraine.pdf](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/20220308_Response_following_Russian_aggression_against_Ukraine.pdf)

## 2. Reactions

- ❖ NHK reported on Thursday that there are growing voices within the GOJ and LDP **expressing concern about imposing a ban on Russian oil imports** like the U.S.
  - GOJ and LDP sources say **Japan is in a fundamentally different situation in terms of energy dependence on Russia** compared to the United States.
  - Others say banning Russian imports will have an impact on the **domestic energy market**.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220310/k10013523121000.html>

- ❖ *Yomiuri* reported on Wednesday that Japanese financial institutions could find it difficult to **recover ¥1 trillion in loans to Russia due to the sanctions**.
  - **Mizuho** has loaned ¥217.7 billion, **Mitsubishi UFJ** has loaned ¥214 billion, **JBIC** has loaned ¥134.5 billion, **Mitsui Sumitomo** has loaned ¥96.4 billion, and **other investors** have loaned ¥240 billion.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/economy/20220308-OYT1T50325/>

- ❖ The GOJ reportedly cannot decide on **banning Russian aircraft from Japanese airspace** due to fear of retaliatory measures banning Japanese aircraft from Russian airspace.
  - **Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa** said there is a need to **consider the impact cutting Russian aircraft off from Japanese airspace will have on logistics**.
  - On Monday, **LDP Foreign Affairs Division Director Sato Masahisa** characterized the GOJ's policies as **“weak diplomacy.”** He said Japan must think of the Ukraine crisis as a **Japanese contingency and Asian issue**, and demanded stronger measures.
  - Sato also said not imposing stronger measures would give the wrong impression that **Japan prioritizes profit over saving lives**.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220307-OYT1T50319/>;

[https://txbiz.tv-tokyo.co.jp/txn/news\\_txn/post\\_247535](https://txbiz.tv-tokyo.co.jp/txn/news_txn/post_247535);

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220308-PL3BRWASHVOQDLXICKAWC5QTFY/>

- ❖ On a TV program aired Sunday, **LDP Policy Research Council Chair Takaichi Sanae** said **Japan does not have to go out of its way to ask China to join in efforts to sanction Russia**.

- She was responding to **former Osaka City Mayor Hashimoto Toru's statement** that Japan should go out of its way, **even consider concessions**, to ask China to join in efforts to sanction Russia.

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220306-SWWLIMU42VMHNAKPGUSIAOZKEE/>

## II. G7 Meetings

### 1. G7 Leaders' Meeting

- ❖ The G7 leaders issued a joint statement on Friday.
- ❖ The statement reiterates that the G7 remains “**resolved to stand with the Ukrainian people and government** who heroically resist Russian President Vladimir Putin’s military aggression and war of choice against their sovereign nation.”
- ❖ The leaders are “**united in our determination to hold President Putin and his regime accountable for this unjustified and unprovoked war** that has already isolated Russia in the world.”
- ❖ The leaders urge Russia to **ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access** to victims of its assault in Ukraine, and to **allow safe passage for civilians wishing to leave**.
- ❖ The leaders commit to **further efforts to reduce reliance on Russian energy**.
- ❖ The leaders commit to taking further measures as soon as possible to **isolate Russia further from the world and the financial system**.
- ❖ The leaders commit to the following measures:
  - Deny Russia **Most-Favored-Nation status** relating to key products, revoking important benefits of Russia’s membership of the WTO and ensure Russian companies no longer received MFN status
  - Work collectively to **prevent Russia from obtaining financing from leading multilateral financial institutions**, including the IMF, World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
  - **Continue pressure against Russian elites, proxies and oligarchs** close to Putin and other “architects of the war”
  - Maintain the effectiveness of restrictive measures, to cracking down on evasion and to closing loopholes. Restrictive measures also cover **digital assets**.
  - **Fight off Russia’s attempts to spread disinformation**

- Prepare to impose **further restrictions on exports and imports of key goods and technologies on Russia**
- Collaborate to develop and implement measures that **further limit Russia's ability to raise money internationally**
- ❖ **The leaders stand united and in solidarity** with “our partners, **including developing and emerging economies**, which unjustly bear the cost and impact of this war, for which we hold President Putin, his regime and supporters, and the Lukashenko regime, fully responsible.”
- ❖ The leaders agree to work to **preserve the stability of energy markets and food security globally** as Russia's invasion threatens Ukraine's capacity to grow crops this year.

Source: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100315215.pdf>

## 2. G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting

- ❖ At the extraordinary agriculture ministers' meeting on Friday, **Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Kaneko Genjiro** emphasized that since Ukraine has lost its port and can't export agricultural products, the **G7 must work to end the war and stabilize the food supply**.  
Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220311/k10013527061000.html>
- ❖ The ministers state that they are “**appalled by and condemn the large-scale aggression by the Russian Federation against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, enabled by the Belarusian Government.**”
- ❖ The ministers strive to provide “**national, bilateral and international support to help facilitate harvests in Ukraine and ensure the ability of Ukrainian farmers to feed their population and to contribute to global food security.**”
- ❖ The ministers voice deep concern about the “**impacts on food security and the rising number of people suffering from hunger and all forms of malnutrition, caused by the unprovoked and unjustifiable Russian war of aggression**, adding to the already severe situation caused by COVID-19, climate change and biodiversity loss.”
- ❖ The ministers “**deeply condemn Russia's attack on Ukraine.**” They voice alarm regarding the “**targeting of critical agricultural infrastructure**, including transportation and storage, which is having significant regional impacts.”

- ❖ The ministers reaffirm the **importance of working together to maintain the flow of food, products, seasonal labor and inputs** essential for agricultural and food production across borders.
- ❖ The ministers call on all countries to “**keep their food and agricultural markets open** and to **guard against any unjustified restrictive measures on their exports.**”
- ❖ The ministers state that **they will not tolerate artificially inflated prices or speculative behavior** that could diminish the availability of food and agricultural products.
- ❖ The ministers agree to work together to help ensure that “**sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people** in a timely, safe, and organized manner, and particularly for the people of Ukraine.”
- ❖ The ministers agree to work with the other G7 ministers and international institutions to **respond to the impacts of the war on food security and nutrition.**
- ❖ The ministers “**stand united with our partners and with the government and people of Ukraine during this crisis.**” They will continue close cooperation to respond to the impacts of war, including on **agricultural and food trade, food security and nutrition.**

Source:

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/g7-extraordinary-meeting-statement.pdf>

### III. Timeline of Other Developments

- ❖ Friday
  - The Cabinet approves **additional sanctions targeting 3 Belarusian banks.**  
Sources: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220311/k10013525491000.html>
  - At a press conference, **Minister of Defense Kishi Nobuo** said the **first provision of Japanese defense equipment (bulletproof vests and helmets) arrived in Poland** on Thursday night.
    - Kishi said he “**strongly hopes (the provisions) will help save the lives of the Ukrainian people who continue resisting the aggression.** We will continue to provide as much support as possible for Ukraine.”
  - Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220311/k10013525831000.html>
  - **Minister of Justice Furukawa Yoshihisa** meets **Ambassador of Ukraine to Japan Sergiy Korsunsky.**



- The minister and ambassador observed a **moment of silence to show respect to the Ukrainian people who lost their lives due to the Russian invasion and to the victims of the 3.11 earthquake.**
- Furukawa informed Korsunsky that the **MOJ will lend its support to Ukraine in response to the ongoing situation** and stated his strong commitment as minister to work in unity with Ukraine.
- Furukawa said **Japan will actively accept Ukrainians from a humanitarian perspective**, not just relatives and acquaintances.
- Furukawa indicated that Japan would accept the Ukrainian request to consider **accepting Ukrainian citizens as mid- long-term workers.**
- As of March 9, Japan has accepted **13 Ukrainians.** Ambassador Korsunsky expects **around 200-300 Ukrainians** to arrive in Japan.

Sources: [https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/hisho/kouhou/m\\_hisho06\\_00073.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/hisho/kouhou/m_hisho06_00073.html);  
<https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031101149&g=pol>

❖ Thursday

- **Russia's Ministry of Defense** announces the military conducted a **military exercise in the Northern Territories using advanced S-300 missiles.**
  - The drill was viewed as the **latest Russian provocation** following stronger sanctions by G7 states and European countries.
  - The S-300 is an **anti-aircraft defense weapon capable of shooting down fighters and missiles** approaching a radius of 400 kilometers.
  - **Chief Cabinet Secretary Matsuno Hirokazu** said on Friday that **Japan formally protested the exercise** through diplomatic channels. He said Japan continues to closely monitor the situation given deep security concerns.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220310/k10013525221000.html>

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa** holds a video conference with **UN World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley.**
  - Hayashi said that he applauds the WFP, which is working swiftly and effectively to eradicate hunger and poverty around the world.
  - He added that **Japan would like to continue cooperating with the WFP's efforts as much as possible.**
  - Hayashi explained that a **part of the \$100 million emergency humanitarian aid to Ukraine will come through the WFP.**
  - Both agreed to **further strengthen Japan-WFP relations and work closely together to address the global hunger problem**, including the situation in Ukraine.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ha\\_er/press6\\_001080.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ha_er/press6_001080.html)

- The **LDP's ag-related lawmakers submit a resolution** to MAFF Minister Kaneko requesting the GOJ work to ensure the **stable supply of food.**

- A group of LDP lawmakers led by **ex-MAFF Minister Etoh Taku** pointed out in the resolution that **food security needs to be bolstered**, as raw material prices in the international market rise due to heightening tensions in Ukraine.
- The resolution also stated that the **GOJ should make every effort to secure a stable supply of staples such as wheat and corn** so as to not “lose out” in a purchasing race with other countries.
- It also requested that the **GOJ strengthen the foundation of domestic production** with the assumption that imports from overseas will become even more difficult to acquire.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220310/k10013524911000.html>

- Japanese clothing retailer **Fast Retailing** announces it will be **temporarily suspending its operations in Russia**.
  - The company stated that it is “**strongly against any acts of hostility. We condemn all forms of aggression that violate human rights and threaten the peaceful existence of individuals.**”
  - It also stated that the company donated **\$10 million** last week to the UNHCR.
  - The company expects all stores, including online sales, to **completely close in 10 days**.
  - **CEO Yanai Tadashi** had originally said the **company planned to keep its stores open**. This led to backlash on social media, with many calling for a boycott of Uniqlo clothes.

Source: <https://www.fastretailing.com/eng/ir/news/2203101800.html>;  
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Uniqlo-suspends-Russia-business-reversing-earlier-decision>

#### ❖ Wednesday

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** signs a law introducing **preferential tax systems for the Northern Territories** (Russian name: Kuril Islands).
  - The amendment **exempts companies registered with the Russian government from key taxes, including corporate, property and land taxes, for up to 20 years** when doing business on the islands.
  - Putin suggested last September that **Russia hopes to actively invite foreign investment to the islands**.
  - Japan has argued that the **plan runs counter to the aim of the joint economic cooperation activities** to be carried out on the territories.

Source: [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20220310\\_12/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20220310_12/)

- **Japan refers the Situation in Ukraine to the ICC**.
  - According to a press release by MOFA, “military actions by Russia in Ukraine this time are an **attempt to unilaterally change the status quo**”

**by force and constitute an act that shakes the foundations of the international order. They are a clear violation of international law and totally unacceptable. Japan strongly condemns these actions.”**

- Japan referred this to the ICC from the viewpoint of **expressing clear support for the investigation of the ICC.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000333.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000333.html)

➤ **Minister of Defense Kishi** receives a courtesy call from **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Korsunsky.**

- Kishi said he shares a great sadness and deep resentment to the situation where many are killed by the Russian invasion.
- Kishi also **accused Russia’s invasion as a serious violation of international law**, said **Japan continues to support Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity**, and said that **Japan will unite with other countries to protect the foundation of international order.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220309/k10013521841000.html>

➤ **Prime Minister Kishida Fumio** meets with **former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo** to discuss the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- The prime minister visited Abe’s office to **thank him for taking the role of special envoy to Malaysia.**
- The two are thought to have discussed sanctions such as the **U.S. decision to ban Russian oil imports.**

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022030901217&g=pol>

❖ **Tuesday**

➤ **GOJ convenes an NSC meeting** to discuss sending defense equipment to Ukraine.

- The cabinet agreed to **amend the operational guidelines for the three principles of defense equipment transfer** to permit foreign transfer of equipment such as bulletproof vests.
- With the revised guidelines, the **GOJ will be able to speedily send defense equipment abroad** after signing international agreements.
- The **first round of provisions** left for Poland on Tuesday.

Source: [https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/tyoukanpress/202203/8\\_p.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/tyoukanpress/202203/8_p.html);

<https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/08b.html>

➤ **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** and **Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Korsunsky** signed an exchange of notes (*kōkan kōbun*) on the transfer of defense equipment to Ukraine.

- According to the MOFA press release, the recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a **serious violation of international law that prohibits the use of force, the UN Charter and clearly violates Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.**

- Japan believes **unilateral changes to the status quo shakes the foundation of the international order and is absolutely unacceptable.** Japan stands by the Ukrainian people who work hard to protect the country's sovereignty and territory, as well as their homeland and families.
- The exchange of notes **prohibits the use of defense equipment for purposes other than their intended use,** and ensures proper management of the equipment by **requiring prior consent to relocate to a third party.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press1\\_000766.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press1_000766.html)

➤ **Prime Minister Kishida** holds a phone conference with **Indonesian President Joko Widodo.**

- Kishida stated that **“Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is a unilateral change of the status quo by force, which shakes the international order and severely condemned Russia.”**
- Kishida also stated that “as Japan is the only country that has suffered from atomic bombings, and as a prime minister from Hiroshima, **neither the threat nor the use of nuclear weapons should be tolerated.**”
- President Joko expressed that **Indonesia attaches importance to the principles of the UN Charter,** especially the principle of territorial integrity.
- The two confirmed that they would **continue to work closely together.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000270.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000270.html)

➤ In a response to a written question submitted to the Diet, the **GOJ said it has no plans to abolish the intergovernmental committee discussing economic issues between Japan and Russia.**

- The GOJ said that it is **“calling on Russia to ease tensions and pursue diplomatic solutions,”** while stating it has **“no plans to abolish the intergovernmental committee at this time.”**
- Regarding **Hagiuda Koichi’s position as Minister for Economic Cooperation with Russia,** the GOJ said **it will not remove him from this title** as the priority is to communicate Japan’s position to the world.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220308/k10013520171000.html>

➤ **Minister of Justice Furukawa Yoshihisa** says **Japan has accepted 8 people displaced by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.**

- The 8 people are Ukrainian citizens who have relatives or acquaintances in Japan and were **granted short-term residency for 90 days.**
- The **Immigration Services Agency** said it is taking a flexible approach to the evacuees in principle and is **considering allowing them to extend their visa and permit them to work by granting a “designated activities” status of residence.**

Sources:

<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2022/03/002be5a1fdd6-japan-accepts-8-people-displaced-by-russian-invasion-of-ukraine.html>

❖ Monday

➤ Russia includes Japan in its list of **“unfriendly countries and regions.”**

- The list includes the U.S., U.K., EU, South Korea, Taiwan and others.
- **CCS Matsuno** said the **GOJ formally protested this decision through diplomatic channels.**
- **Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi** said the ministry will make preparations to ensure Japanese companies are not disadvantaged by this decision.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220308/k10013519491000.html>

➤ Japan raises the travel **advisory level for Russia to 3** (no travel). Other regions (near the border with Ukraine) will be left at **level 4** (evacuate).

- MOFA explains that **flights out of Russia are becoming scarce** as Russia closes down air travel.
- **VISA, Mastercard and other credit card services have announced a temporary suspension of services**, leaving a significant impact on civilian life.
- **MOFA instructs Japanese citizens not to travel to Russia for any reason.**
- MOFA recommends that citizens in Russia leave on commercial flights before all flights are stopped.
- MOFA announced that it ordered **officials working at the temporary office in Lviv to leave Ukraine.** The officials will work from the **Japanese embassy in Poland** to help Japanese citizens evacuate Ukraine.
- CCS Matsuno said on Sunday that there are **roughly 2,400 Japanese nationals in Russia.**

Sources: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_009294.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_009294.html);

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220308/k10013519161000.html>;

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Japan-warns-against-all-Russia-travel-as-sanctions-disrupt-lives>

➤ Japan restarts use of the term **“inherent territory”** (*koyū no ryōdo*) when referring to the Northern Territories.

- **Foreign Minister Hayashi** described the Northern Territories as **“Japan’s inherent territory.”**
- **Prime Minister Kishida** said **“Japan’s inherent territory, and territory which Japan exercises sovereignty over.”**

- **Former Prime Minister Abe** had refrained from using the term to avoid a negative impact on negotiations over a peace treaty and the Northern Territories. He used, “**islands which Japan exercises sovereignty over.**”

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220308-6TMT2QUJU5LDXDFBLMTU44Z6CE/>

- **Foreign Minister Hayashi** meets with **Slovenian Foreign Minister Anze Logar**.
  - Hayashi said **Russia’s invasion of Ukraine violates Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, seriously violates international law, and unilaterally challenges the status quo by force. Japan strongly condemns Russia’s actions.**
  - Hayashi explained the sanctions taken by the GOJ and discussed the **importance of Japan-EU coordination on responding to Russia.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6\\_001074.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001074.html)

- An **LDP Diet Federation aiming to abolish nuclear weapons** finalized a resolution **strongly condemning Russia’s attack on a nuclear power plant in Ukraine.**
  - The resolution states that “**President Putin’s statements threatening the use of nuclear weapons pose a serious challenge to human society.**”
  - It also states that Russia’s attack is “**a barbaric act comparable to the use of nuclear weapons and must be strongly condemned.**”
  - It requests that the **GOJ urge Russia to never use nuclear weapons.**
  - The Diet Federation plans to **submit the resolution to Foreign Minister Hayashi** in the near future.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220307/k10013518981000.html>

#### ❖ Sunday

- *Yomiuri* reported that the GOJ is looking to **change Russia’s status from “partner” to “national security challenge”** in its NSS to be revised by the end of the year.
  - The current NSS states **Japan and Russia cooperate on security and energy issues.**
  - An unnamed MOD source is cited stating that following its invasion of Ukraine, **Russia can no longer be considered a partner to Japan.**

Sources: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220305-OYT1T50285/>

## IV. Statements by Japanese Lawmakers

### 1. Government of Japan

- ❖ Prime Minister Kishida Fumio

- At a press conference on Saturday, **Prime Minister Kishida** said **Russia's invasion of Ukraine shakes the foundations of the international order, and stated that the G7 will never forgive or accept it, and that it will show its solidarity with Ukraine.**
  - On additional sanctions, Kishida said **Japan will align its measures with the rest of the G7.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220312/k10013527621000.html>

- At a press conference on Wednesday, Kishida said that **Japan will consider additional measures**, such as banning Russian oil imports like the U.S., through the **lens of security and stable supply of energy.**
  - He stated that **Biden said the U.S. will be moving forward with the policy knowing allies will not join the effort.**

Source: [https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101\\_kishida/statement/2022/0309kaiken.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101_kishida/statement/2022/0309kaiken.html)

- At a Diet session on Monday, Kishida stated that **Japanese citizens in Russia should leave the country before the situation on the ground worsens.**
  - He also said **Japan has other options beside banning Russian aircraft from Japanese airspace**, and stated that while countries agree on the basics, they do not agree on the specifics on what this measure entails.
  - He also said that **closer China-Russia ties warrant close monitoring of their activities around Japan.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220307/k10013519071000.html>;  
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220307/k10013518141000.html>

❖ Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa

- At a press conference on Friday, Hayashi said that **Japan has deep concerns about the situation in Ukraine** in which more than 2 million people have been forced to evacuate and there are damages to civilian infrastructure and civilian casualties.
  - He stated that the hearts of the government and the people of Japan are with Ukraine.
  - He also said Japan will **continue to cooperate with the G7 and others in the international community to provide support to the people of Ukraine.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken24\\_000099.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken24_000099.html)

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Hayashi said **Russia's invasion of Ukraine violates Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, violates international law that prohibits the use of force, and shakes the foundations of a world order that does not accept unilateral changes to the status quo.**
  - He said that **Russia's repeated refusal to end aggression cannot be accepted, and condemned Russia with the strongest words possible.**



- He said **Russia's actions violate Article 2, Clause 4 of the UN Charter and the international human rights convention.**
- He also said that the **GOJ changed its language regarding the Northern Territories as it saw no way forward for peace negotiations with Russia following the aggression against Ukraine.**
- He added that the GOJ recognises **Russia's actions in the Northern Territories as unlawful occupation of the islands.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken3\\_000072.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken3_000072.html)

- At a Diet session on Tuesday, Hayashi said that the **GOJ has no intentions to dispatch a special envoy to Russia.**

- The opposition requested that the GOJ send **Abe Shinzo.**

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022030800825&g=pol>

#### ❖ Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo

- At a press conference on Friday, Kishi stated that **Japan will work with the rest of the international community to respond to Russia's unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force**, which shook the foundations of world order, from the **standpoint of securing regional and world peace and stability.**

- He said that **Japan strongly hopes the provisions of defense equipment will help save the lives of Ukrainians who continue resisting aggression from Russia.**
- He also stated that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is an act that shakes the foundations of international order and one **severely criticized by Japan.**

Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/kisha/2022/0311a.html>

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Kishi stated that **Japan's transfer of defense equipment was a result of a request from Ukraine**, a country that has been subject to aggression violating international law.

- He said that working with the international community to respond to this act that shakes the foundations of world order in not only Europe but also Asia is **vitaly important from a security perspective.**
- He also said **Japan will work with other like-minded countries to categorically oppose anyone who forcefully attempts to change order.**

Source: [https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/kisha/2022/0308b\\_r.html](https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/kisha/2022/0308b_r.html)

#### ❖ Chief Cabinet Secretary Matsuno Hirokazu

- At a Diet session on Friday, Matsuno said that **Japan will postpone economic cooperation with Russia, including the 8-point plan**, and will respond to the situation while paying attention to the stable supply of energy and humanitarian considerations.

- He said private projects should be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220311/k10013526051000.html>

- At a press conference on Wednesday, Matsuno said the **GOJ had not changed its position regarding the Northern Territories**, despite changing the terminology to describe the islands.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220309/k10013521211000.html>

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Matsuno stated that **Japan's transfer of defense equipment was a result of a request from Ukraine**, a country that has been subject to aggression violating international law.

- He said that working with the international community to respond to this act that shakes the foundations of world order in not only Europe but also Asia is **vitaly important from a security perspective**.

Source: [https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/tyoukanpress/202203/8\\_p.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/tyoukanpress/202203/8_p.html)

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Matsuno said the **GOJ formally protested Russia's decision to include Japan in its list of "unfriendly countries and regions."**

- He said that he requested that the **interests of the Japanese people and businesses not be damaged**.

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022030800434&g=pol>

- At a press conference on Monday, Matsuno said **Japanese citizens returning from Russia will be counted separately from the 5,000 cap on entry**.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220307-OYT1T50181/>

❖ Minister of Finance Suzuki Shunichi

- At a press conference on Friday, Suzuki said that **Japan cannot overlook the fact that Belarus is supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine** by allowing the use of its own territory.

- He also said that Japan will continue to work closely with the G7 and others in the international community to **ensure the effectiveness of economic sanctions**.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220311/k10013525491000.html>

❖ Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Hagiuda said **Japan plans to keep pace with the G7** and respond appropriately to the situation by dealing with the **stability of the energy market and security as national security issues**.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220308/k10013519921000.html>

❖ Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy Kobayashi Takayuki

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Kobayashi said **Russia's attack on a nuclear power plant is an unforgivable outrage**, especially because Japan has experienced the Fukushima Daiichi accident. He strongly condemned the act.

- He said Japan must constantly **consider various scenarios under the scope of nuclear safety.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220308/k10013520161000.html>

❖ Chief of Staff of the GSDF Yoshida Yoshihide

- At a press conference on Thursday, Gen. Yoshida said **Russia's attack on a nuclear power plant is "completely unforgivable from the perspective of Japan, which feels the deep scars of the nuclear disaster at Fukushima Daiichi."**

- Gen. Yoshida also said that the GSDF views the situation with a **very strong sense of crisis** as the Russian leadership has chosen to escalate military means in rapid succession for their political purposes.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/national/20220311-OYT1T50082/>

## 2. Other Notable Lawmakers

❖ Former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo

- In a lecture delivered in Malaysia on Saturday, **special envoy Abe** stated that the crisis in Ukraine is a **"unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force, and poses a serious threat against the rules-based international order. Its ramification will go beyond Europe."**

- He said that its ramification will also be felt in **Asia**, where unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and economic coercion constitute a **serious threat for Japan and Malaysia.**

- He also said that **we should raise voices against this**, in accord with like-minded countries including Malaysia.

Source: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100315257.pdf>

❖ Former Prime Minister and current LDP Deputy President Aso Taro

- In a Aso faction meeting held on Thursday, **Aso strongly criticized Putin as a "dictator who went out of control."**

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031000918&g=pol>

❖ LDP Secretary General Motegi Toshimitsu

- At an LDP meeting on Tuesday, Motegi said **Russia has launched an outrageous and unprecedented attack on a nuclear power plant.** He added that as **a country which experienced the Fukushima Daiichi accident, we cannot accept it.**

- He also said that Japan must take **strict measures**, including sanctions, to **impose costs on Russia's violence.**

- He said that **Japan's transfer of defense equipment** shows that Japan is close to Ukraine and that Japan is with Ukraine. He said he hopes the **GOJ speedily transfers the equipment to Ukraine.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220308/k10013520431000.html>

❖ LDP Upper House Secretary-General Seko Hiroshige

- On a TV program aired Sunday, Seko said **Japan must be “pragmatic” about its energy procurement and think twice about leaving the Sakhalin offshore oil and gas development projects.**

- He said that if Japan leaves now, **countries like China will take the gas for cheap.**
- He also said that **both Europe and the U.S. have taken a pragmatic approach**, and that **many local gas companies that procure from the Sakhalin project could face supply disruptions** if Japan walks away.

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Japan-exit-from-Sakhalin-LNG-would-let-China-swoop-in-ex-minister>

❖ Komeito leader Yamaguchi Natsuo

- At a press event on Sunday, Yamaguchi said that the **lessons of Fukushima and Chernobyl have not been utilized at all** in the latest Russian attack on a Ukrainian nuclear power plant.
- **He criticized Russia**, whose actions violate its responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and signatory to the NPT.
- He said that the **international community must severely criticize Russia and make it stop.**

Source: <https://www.nhk.or.jp/politics/articles/lastweek/78717.html>

❖ Komeito deputy leader Kitagawa Kazuo

- On Thursday, Kitagawa said that **Japan must think carefully** about joining the U.S. in banning Russian oil imports since, unlike the U.S., **most of its energy is imported from overseas.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220310/k10013523901000.html>

❖ Tokyo Governor Koike Yuriko

- At a Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly session on Monday, **Koike expressed support for the GOJ's policy of accepting displaced persons from Ukraine.**
- She announced that she would support the GOJ, including through the **provision of city-owned housing**, if requested by the government.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/national/20220307-OYT1T50339/>

❖ CDP leader Izumi Kenta

- On Thursday, Izumi told reporters that he intends to make arrangements to **obtain the cooperation of Japanese airlines to deliver relief supplies such as medicine and groceries to Ukraine.**

- He also said that **Japan should reconsider its economic cooperation with Russia and strengthen mechanisms to prevent assets flowing to Russia.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220310/k10013525181000.html>

❖ CDP Policy Research Council Chair Ogawa Junya

- At a press conference on Thursday, Ogawa stated that though he understands the negative impact banning Russian oil imports may have on domestic markets, **failure to take strong measures sends an extremely inadequate message to Ukrainians who are being placed in an unjust position.**

- He added that the worst situation is to be taken advantage of by Russia, and that **it would be better to align policies with the U.S. and others even if it meant asking Japanese citizens to take on some of the burden.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220310/k10013523981000.html>