

# ***The Weekly Observer***

Special Edition: Ukraine

April 1, 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, a timeline of the events related to Ukraine this week, and a summary of the statements made this week by GOJ members as well as other Japanese politicians and important figures.*

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## I. Government Measures

### ❖ 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>
  - Third round left on a U.S. military aircraft on **March 16**  
Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/16e.html>
- Provide **emergency humanitarian assistance of \$200 million** in such areas as **health and medical care, food, protection of people** in Ukraine and neighboring countries through international organizations and others
  - **(NEW)** MOFA announced on April 1 that it will provide **5,000 blankets, 4,500 vinyl sheets, and 8,500 sleeping mats to Ukrainians for free** at the request of the UNHCR.
    - The provisions will be flown from a storage facility in Dubai to **Warsaw** by a charter aircraft.Sources: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press1\\_000816.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press1_000816.html); <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100325483.pdf>
  - The prime minister announced at the G7 summit that Japan will be providing an **additional \$100 million** in emergency humanitarian aid.  
Source: <https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/headline/ukraine2022/index.html>
  - **\$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
- Consider **personnel contributions in health and medical fields and cooperation in supplying materials** to support neighboring countries supporting refugees

Source: <https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/headline/ukraine2022/index.html>

#### ❖ **Financial measures**

- **Prevent financing to Russia from leading multilateral financial institutions**, including IMF, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Respond to sanctions evasion by Russia, including through **digital assets**
- Restrictions on transactions with **Russia's central bank**
- Sanctions that include **freezing of assets of 81 people related to the Government of Russia**, including **President Putin** and business oligarchs
  - The GOJ added **25 individuals** (including relatives of sanctioned individuals) on March 25  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6\\_001094.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001094.html)
  - The GOJ added **15 individuals (lawmakers, oligarchs, foreign ministry and defense officials) and 9 organizations** on March 18  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6\\_001089.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001089.html)
  - The GOJ added **17 individuals** on March 15  
Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6\\_001082.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001082.html)
  - 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, Novicombank 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**

- **Revoke Russia's "most-favored nation" status**
- **Prohibit imports** of certain goods

- *Jiji* reported on March 19 that the **GOJ decided against banning imports of Russian crab and salmon** due to concern a ban would cripple regional fishery processing businesses that sell Russian goods.
- Japan could also **ban imports of Russian vodka**, while **crude oil and LNG are likely to remain off the list**.

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031800798&g=eco>

➤ **Prohibit exports of luxury goods**

- **(NEW)** *NHK* reported on Tuesday that the **GOJ will impose a ban on 19 items beginning April 5**.
  - The items include **automobiles** that cost over ¥6 million (≈\$49,284); **motorcycles** that cost over ¥600,000 (≈\$4,928); **grand pianos** that cost over ¥20,000 (≈\$164); **natural pearls, high-end Japanese whisky and luxury watches** that cost over ¥40,000 (≈\$329).

Source:

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220329/k10013557951000.html>

➤ **Sanctions on exports to 130 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.

- The GOJ added **81 organizations** on March 25

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6\\_001094.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001094.html)

➤ **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/jp\\_stands\\_with\\_ukraine\\_eng.pdf](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/jp_stands_with_ukraine_eng.pdf);  
[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)

## II. Timeline of Other Developments

- ❖ Friday
  - The **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry** reveals **Minister Hagiuda Koichi** participated in an **emergency IEA meeting**.
    - The members agreed to **cooperate on further releasing oil reserves**, but the exact amount has not yet been determined.
    - The U.S. proposed IEA cooperation. The **Biden administration** announced on Thursday that it would be **releasing one million barrels of oil a day for 180 days**.
    - The IEA projects that starting April, **oil imports from Russia are likely to decrease by 1.5 million barrels a day, as well as by 1 million barrels for petroleum products**.

Source: <https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA01D9L0R00C22A4000000/>

- The **Russian Ministry of Defense** announces a **military exercise on Kunashiri and Etorofu Islands** (Northern Territories).
  - According to the ministry, more than 1,000 Army soldiers conducted the exercise with about 200 military vehicles.
  - The exercise includes preparing to launch an **anti-tank missile system and training reconnaissance** for shooting with the latest unmanned aircraft.
  - The ministry also announced a separate exercise on **Matua Island in the Chishima Islands** (Kuril) to prevent landing of anticipated enemies using the **surface-to-ship missile system “Bastion.”**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220401/k10013563671000.html>

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa** leaves Japan for **Poland**. He replaces **Minister of Justice Furukawa Yoshihisa** as special envoy.

- He will visit Poland between **April 1-5** to meet with Polish authorities and discuss ways in which Japan can support evacuees.
- There are **plans for Hayashi to bring back evacuees with him on the government aircraft upon his return.**
- He will be accompanied by **Nakatani Gen** (special advisor to the PM on human rights) and **State Minister of Justice Tsushima Jun.**

Sources: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220331-OYT1T50226/>;  
<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA010HY0R00C22A4000000/>;  
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220401/k10013562391000.html>

- At a press conference at the Japan Press Club, **Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Sergiy Korsunsky** says he would like **Japan to take leadership in the Ukrainian reconstruction process after the conflict is over.**
  - The ambassador referred to Japan as a “superpower” and said he expects **Japan to make active contributions to his country’s reconstruction.**
  - The ambassador acknowledged that Japan cannot make direct military contributions, but said it has a **special role to play in international financial institutions and restructuring an “outdated” security framework.**
  - The ambassador revealed that his country has received **over ¥5 billion from 200,000 Japanese citizens.**

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/sp/article?k=2022040100753&g=int>

- The GOJ convenes a meeting of ministries and agencies working on accepting Ukrainian evacuees to Japan.

Source: <https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA010HY0R00C22A4000000/>

#### ❖ Thursday

- **President Vladimir Putin** announces that **buyers of Russian LNG who reject payment in rubles will not receive LNG supply.**

Source: <https://jp.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-russia-gas-idJPKCN2LS2KE>

- **Minister of Justice Furukawa Yoshihisa** **cancels trip to Poland** after allegedly coming into contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

- **Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kihara Seiji** said Thursday that Furukawa had canceled his trip to Poland (April 1-5).

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013560351000.html>

- The GOJ announces it will use **Ukrainian language terms for city names.**
  - **Kyiv** will change from “*Kiefu*” to “*Kiiu*”
  - **Kharkiv** will change from “*Harikofu*” to “*Harukiu*”
  - **Odessa** will change from “*Odessa*” to “*Odeesa*”
  - There are proposals to change **Chernobyl’s pronunciation** too
  - Changing the way in which names appear on official documents **requires amendments to the law.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press1\\_000813.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press1_000813.html);  
<https://www.fnn.jp/articles/-/340210>

- The **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry** finalized plans to **stabilize the supply of seven critical items** that face concerns over acquisition of supply due to the situation in Ukraine and dependence on Russia.
  - METI established a “**Strategic Supply/Energy Supply Chain Response Headquarters**” chaired by **Minister Hagiuda**.
  - The **7 items** include oil, LNG, coal for electricity and steel production, gas for semiconductor production, palladium necessary as a catalyst for exhaust gas purification (cars), and ferroalloy for steel production.
  - The GOJ intends to **survey companies acquiring critical supplies to provide the necessary support for stable supply**.

Item	Response
<b>Oil</b>	Lobbying oil producers Conserving energy use Expanding drilling rights
<b>LNG</b>	Consider new system for trading between producers Expanding drilling rights
<b>Coal for electricity</b>	Promoting energy conservation and changing fuel source
<b>Coal for steel production</b>	
<b>Gas for semiconductor production</b>	Consider recycling and investment into manufacturing equipment
<b>Palladium</b>	R&D and expanding recycling capabilities
<b>Ferroalloy</b>	Consider requesting additional production and expanding rights to produce

Sources:

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA30A7A0Q2A330C2000000/>;  
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013560341000.html>

- **Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda** holds an online conference with **Mohammed al-Fares, Kuwait’s oil minister**.
  - Hagiuda requested that **Kuwait continue to make efforts to stabilize the international crude oil market**.

- At the meeting, **Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI)**, a government-owned company, signed a **memorandum of understanding** with Kuwait's state-owned oil company.
- It was agreed that **Japanese financial institutions will finance the implementation of oil producing facilities.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013561651000.html>

➤ Japan-Spain Foreign Ministers' Phone Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of Foreign Affairs José Manuel Albares**.
- The ministers confirmed that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine infringes upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, constitutes a serious violation of international law and is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force.**
- The ministers **strongly condemned the aggression** as a serious situation which **undermines the very foundations of the entire international order including Asia**, and confirmed that like-minded countries, including Japan, the EU and the U.S. will continue to flexibly implement measures as the situation develops.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000279.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000279.html)

➤ **National Security Secretariat Secretary-General Akiba Takeo** meets with a special advisor to the German Chancellor.

- The two exchanged views on the **situation in Ukraine, the importance of the rule of law, and efforts to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.**
- The two confirmed that the **countries would work closely together** in light of Japan's upcoming G7 presidency next year.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013562001000.html>

➤ A JETRO survey shows **43 percent of Japanese companies doing business in Russia have halted operations.**

- According to the survey, **96 out of the 97 companies** that responded to the survey said **sanctions have had a negative impact on their business.**
- **44 percent of businesses** said they expect to **scale back or completely withdraw from Russian business operations in the next six months to a year.**

Source: <https://www.jetro.go.jp/news/releases/2022/6c0ae2c8d2d948a0.html>

➤ **NHK** reports that the GOJ plans to **submit legislation this Diet session that will revoke Russia's "most-favored nation" status.**

- Once passed, **tariffs on Russian timber will increase** from 4.8 percent to 8 percent.
- **Tariffs on fish, such as salmon and salmon roe**, will increase from 3.5 percent to 5 percent.

- **Tariffs on crab** will increase from 4 percent to 6 percent.
- New tariff amounts will be effective from the **end of March**.
- **LNG, palladium, coal and crude oil** (all not subject to tariffs) will remain untouched.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013560031000.html>

❖ Wednesday

- *Nikkei* reports that **Foreign Minister Hayashi** is expected to participate in the **NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels early next month**.
  - According to MOFA, this will be the **first time a Japanese foreign minister participates in a NATO foreign ministers meeting**. Japan is a **NATO partner nation**.
  - The ministers are expected to discuss **sanctions on Russia and support mechanisms for Ukrainian evacuees**.

Source:

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO59518430Z20C22A3PD0000/?type=my#AAAUAgAAMA>

- **Minister of Justice Furukawa** meets with **Polish Ambassador to Japan Pawel Milewski** to discuss his upcoming visit to Poland.
  - Furukawa informed the ambassador that he plans to see the situation on the ground himself to **understand the needs of the evacuees**.
  - There are proposals within the GOJ that **Furukawa could bring evacuees who desire to come to Japan with him on a government jet**.
  - The GOJ is also considering providing **living and medical expenses to evacuees who have no acquaintances or relatives in Japan**, as well as support such as **Japanese language training, vocational counseling and children's education** as needed.

Sources: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220330/k10013559611000.html>;  
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013560011000.html>

- *Nikkei* reports that the **status of "evacuees" from Ukraine coming to Japan are not protected legally like "refugees" in other countries**.
  - **"Evacuees"** are not mentioned in Japanese law, meaning their status is only **temporary**. Currently, evacuees are **allowed to work for a year**.
  - As of March 29, there are **325 Ukrainian "evacuees"** in Japan.
  - Unlike evacuees, **refugees can stay up to 5 years in Japan and receive a travel certificate** which acts as a replacement for a passport.
  - The **1951 Refugee Convention** defines refugees as **"someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion."**

- Japan is party to the convention, but has opted to call Ukrainians “evacuees” who do not fit the definition of a “refugee.”
- In 2020, Japan only accepted **47 of the roughly 4,000 individuals who applied for refugee status.**

Sources:

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA29B9H0Z20C22A3000000/>;

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA010HY0R00C22A4000000/>;

<https://www.unhcr.org/what-is-a-refugee.html>

❖ Tuesday

- The Cabinet approves a written response to a lawmaker question **regarding the status of Ukrainian evacuees arriving in Japan.**
  - Specifically, the Cabinet responded that the GOJ would issue a **travel certificate to individuals who do not have a passport so long as they are not responsible for losing the passport.**
  - The GOJ has already decided that Japan will be accepting evacuees on a **90-day short-term visa**, and that individuals who **desire to stay longer will be granted “designated activity” status to stay/work for as long as 1 year.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220329/k10013557171000.html>

- *Yomiuri* reports that the **GOJ plans to support Ukrainian evacuees who desire to reside in Japan through education and vocational training.**
  - Evacuees will be provided **accommodation at a hotel managed by the Ministry of Justice.**
  - They will receive **language training and interview guidance** (work) at a facility operated by the Refugee Assistance HQ at the Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People, a MOFA’s affiliate.
  - After a certain period of time, **evacuees will be matched with companies and local municipalities** that have offered support such as housing and employment opportunities.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220330-OYT1T50008/>

- **The CDP submits legislation to the Diet establishing new visa status for all evacuees from war and other atrocities.**
  - Specifically, **evacuees from all wars and civil wars would be permitted work immediately and stay in Japan for up to a year.**
  - The bill also **relaxes the conditions that have to be met to be granted the status**, such as abolishing the **rejection of entry for reasons such as “poverty” or “infectious diseases.”**
  - A CDP lawmaker said that his party would like to extend support not only to Ukrainians but those in other war-torn countries like in Syria and Afghanistan.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220329/k10013557941000.html>

➤ **Nikkei Asia** reports that **Japan's top banks face hefty losses on \$8 billion in exposure to Russia.**

- The business climate in Russia has turned dire due to its **cratering credit rating and the loss of confidence in the ruble** under sweeping sanctions imposed on the country.
- At the end of Jan. 2022, **MUFG Bank** reported ¥270 billion (\$2.2 billion) in exposure, while **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.** had \$3.1 billion.
- At the end of 2021, **Mizuho Bank** also had \$2.9 billion in exposure.
- Japan's megabanks could run into **hundreds of millions in loan loss reserves**, which would be exacerbated if Moscow "defaults" by continuing to threaten to make debt payments in rubles.
- There are also concerns that **Japanese bank assets held at Russia's central bank could be seized in retaliation.**

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Finance/Japan-s-top-banks-face-hefty-losses-on-8bn-Russia-exposure>

❖ Monday

➤ The **G7 Energy Ministers and the EU Commissioner for Energy** issue a **joint statement rejecting President Putin's demand that gas deliveries must be paid in rubles.**

- The ministers reaffirmed that **agreed contracts for gas deliveries must be respected**, since most of the contracts **explicitly stipulate payment in euros or dollars.**
- The G7 partners agreed to **call on the companies based in their countries not to accede to such demands.**

Source: <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/energy/220328-statement.html>

➤ **Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov** says Putin will sign a **decree restricting entry into Russia for citizens of "unfriendly countries"** in response to Western sanctions, which includes Japan.

Source: <https://mobile.twitter.com/maxseddon/status/1508422569875103752>

➤ The **Nippon Foundation (Nippon Zaidan)** announces it will provide **about ¥5 billion over 3 years to support Ukrainian evacuees with travel and living fees.**

- The Foundation plans to provide **family members and acquaintances living in Japan** ¥300,000 for travel fees and ¥3 million over 3 years for living costs to **roughly 1,000 Ukrainians evacuees with residency credentials.**
- The Foundation will also **support NPOs and volunteer groups** that look to help evacuees adjust to life in Japan.

Source: <https://www.nhk.or.jp/politics/articles/lastweek/80021.html>

❖ Sunday

➤ Japan-Ghana Foreign Ministers' Video Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of Foreign Affairs Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey**.
- Hayashi stated that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force and infringes upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity**, which constitutes a **serious violation of international law and is totally unacceptable**, and expressed his **desire to continue working with Ghana**.
- Hayashi also stated that it is **encouraging that Ghana supported two resolutions at the emergency special sessions of the UN General Assembly**.
- Hayashi also addressed the **impact of the situation in Ukraine on the rising food prices and on the global supply chains**.
- Hayashi raised the **importance of transparency and fairness of the development finance and Security Council Reform**, and both Ministers confirmed to cooperate with each other.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000353.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000353.html)

➤ Japan-Egypt Foreign Ministers' Video Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry**.
- Hayashi stated that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a unilateral change of the status quo by force that shakes the very foundation of the international order and thus is totally unacceptable**, and expressed his **desire to continue working with Egypt**.
- The ministers confirmed that they will **closely coordinate on the matter**.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000276.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000276.html)

➤ Japan-Tunisia Foreign Ministers' Video Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of Foreign Affairs Othman Jerandi**.
- Hayashi stated that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a unilateral change of the status quo by force that shakes the very foundation of the international order and thus is totally unacceptable**, and expressed his **desire to continue working with Tunisia**.
- The ministers confirmed that they will **closely coordinate on the matter**.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000275.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000275.html)

❖ Saturday

➤ Virtual TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) Ministerial Meeting

- The virtual TICAD meeting was held **ahead of TICAD 8** to be held in August. The meeting was chaired by **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi. State Minister Suzuki Takako** took the role of acting chair.
- During the meeting, Hayashi stated that **Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine is a unilateral change of the status quo by force and totally unacceptable as it constitutes a violation of international law which shakes the very foundations of the international order.**
- Hayashi emphasized that the **international community needs to address the situation in a concerted manner.**
- Hayashi also mentioned the importance of **establishing a free and open international order** based on the rules under the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, as well as the **importance of fairness and transparency of development finance** and the need for **UN Security Council reform.**
- In response, the **African countries expressed their concern about the situation in Ukraine** and its impacts and the **need for the international community to cooperate.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000277.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000277.html)

➤ Japan-Senegal Foreign Ministers' Video Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of External Relations Aïssata Tall Sall.**
- Hayashi stated that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force and constitutes a serious violation of international law, which is totally unacceptable.**
- Hayashi expressed that it is **encouraging that Senegal supported the "Humanitarian Consequences of Aggression against Ukraine" resolution** at the emergency special session of the UN General Assembly.
- Hayashi underscored the **necessity of the international community's concerted and decisive response to Russia.**
- Hayashi addressed the **impact of the situation in Ukraine on the global supply chains**, and both sides discussed further responses.
- Hayashi emphasized the **importance of fairness and transparency of development finance**, and expressed his hope to **work together for the UN Security Council reform with Senegal**, which is serving as Chair of the African Union.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000274.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000274.html)

➤ Japan-Angola Foreign Ministers' Video Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of External Relations Teté António.**
- Hayashi stated that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is totally unacceptable, noting that the aggression infringes upon Ukraine's**

**sovereignty and territorial integrity, and constitutes a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force.**

- Hayashi mentioned that **Japan strongly condemns Russia** for its attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, which shakes the very foundations of the international order.
- Hayashi asked Angola to cooperate, and the two sides confirmed that they will **closely coordinate on the matter.**
- Hayashi referred to the **impact of the current situation in Ukraine on the increase in food prices and the global supply chain**, and the two ministers discussed further responses on this matter.
- Hayashi also emphasized the **importance of fairness and transparency of development finance**, and the ministers confirmed their continued cooperation.
- Hayashi expressed **concern about the increase in oil price** affected by the ongoing situation in Ukraine.
- Hayashi emphasized that the **stabilization of the international oil market** could benefit both producing and consuming countries of oil, and that **Angola could play a significant role by supplying a greater amount of oil.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000352.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000352.html)

➤ Japan-Uganda Foreign Ministers' Video Conference

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** spoke with **Minister of Foreign Affairs Odongo Jeje.**
- Hayashi stated that **recent Russia's aggression against Ukraine is totally unacceptable, noting that the aggression infringes upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and constitutes a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force.**
- Hayashi mentioned that **Japan strongly condemns Russia** for its attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, which shakes the very foundations of the international order.
- Hayashi stressed that the international community must unite in taking resolute action.
- Hayashi referred to the **impact of the current situation in Ukraine on soaring food prices and the global supply chain**, and the two ministers discussed further responses on this matter.
- Hayashi emphasized the **importance of fairness and transparency of development finance**, and also expressed his **hope to work together for UN Security Council reform with Uganda, a member of the Committee of Ten.**

- The ministers confirmed that **both sides will continue their efforts to achieve reform.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000349.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000349.html)

- *Nikkei Asia* reports that **Japan's three biggest banks are teaming up with major U.S. and European lenders to help Kuwait increase oil output and calm energy markets** hit by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
  - **Mizuho Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and MUFG Bank** will join the likes of HSBC and JPMorgan Chase to make the loan to **Kuwait Petroleum Corp.** Mizuho is expected to be the **lead underwriter.**
  - **Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda** will meet with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Mohammed al-Fares as early as the coming week to sign off on the deal.
  - The loan comes after **Kuwait asked Japan for support in lifting its oil production capacity.** The GOJ is backing the deal with **trade insurance.**
  - **Kuwait supplied 8.4 percent of Japan's energy imports last year,** making it a key oil supplier after Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Markets/Commodities/Japan-U.S.-U.K.-lenders-loan-Kuwait-1bn-to-boost-oil-output>

- The **Russian military** says Friday that it started a **military exercise involving more than 3,000 troops on the Northern Territories.**
  - It was the **first drill** conducted after Moscow unilaterally cut off negotiations over a peace treaty and the Northern Territories issue.
  - The drill was conducted with the scenario of **launching a counterattack against enemy forces attempting to land.**

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Russia-starts-military-drill-on-disputed-islands-off-Japan>

### III. Statements by Japanese Lawmakers

#### 1. Government of Japan

- ❖ Prime Minister Kishida Fumio
  - At a House of Councillors plenary session on Friday, Kishida noted that it will be **important to unite Asian voices in coordination with the rest of the world in taking strong measures against Russia.**
    - Kishida stated that **Japan is calling on China to act responsibly,** and will continue to work closely with the countries concerned.

- Kishida stated that as the only G7 member in Asia, Japan will take appropriate measures to **further increase diplomatic and economic pressure so that loopholes in sanctions are closed.**
- Kishida reiterated that **Japan will follow the G7 in rejecting Russia's demand to pay for LNG in rubles.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220401/k10013562661000.html>

- At a House of Representatives plenary session on Thursday, Kishida emphasized that he aims for **Japan to take leadership to realize a new international order, namely through UN Security Council reform.**
  - Kishida reiterated that **relations with Russia cannot go ahead as normal**, stating that the **aggression against Ukraine shakes the foundation of international order not only in Europe but also in Asia.**
  - Kishida announced that **Japan will not be withdrawing from the Sakhalin-2 LNG project**, citing the need for **stable supply of long-term, cheap LNG and its importance for energy security.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220331/k10013560911000.html>

- At an Upper House Audit Committee meeting on Monday, Kishida said he plans to **expedite preparations to accept Ukrainian evacuees to Japan** by dispatching Minister of Justice Furukawa as a special envoy to Poland.
  - Kishida **did not state explicitly that the GOJ would be requesting Japanese companies to leave Russia**, saying it comes down to individual decisions by businesses.
  - Kishida stated that the **GOJ would be introducing legislation to the Diet** this session to amend the **Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act in an attempt to close up loopholes Russians might use to evade sanctions via digital assets.**
  - Kishida said that the international community has come to a consensus that it cannot continue relations with Russia as is, and that **Japan would respond appropriately after discussing with G20 members whether Russia should be expelled from the group.**

Sources: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220328/k10013555321000.html>;  
<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQQUA281NV0Y2A320C2000000/>

- At a speech delivered on Saturday at the graduation ceremony of the Japan Coast Guard Academy, Kishida stressed the **importance of ensuring maritime safety based on the rule of law.**
  - Kishida said **Russia's aggression against Ukraine has threatened international order and peace.**
  - Kishida said **ensuring peace for the next generation** is the most important responsibility given to us.

- Kishida said that the **choices and actions of the international community, including Japan, will determine the future trend of international order.**
- Kishida said it is important that the **international community unite and resolutely oppose unilateral changes to the status quo by force at this critical juncture.**
- Kishida added that **Japan must never allow unilateral changes to the status by force, like what Russia did, in the Indo-Pacific, especially in East Asia.** This, he said, is extremely important for Japan's future diplomacy and security.

Source: [https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101\\_kishida/statement/2022/0327kunji.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101_kishida/statement/2022/0327kunji.html)

❖ Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa

- At a press conference on Friday, Hayashi informed the press about his **visit to Poland between April 1-5.**

- Hayashi stated that the GOJ is **currently arranging for evacuees desiring to leave Poland for Japan to join him on the plane back to Japan.**

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken4\\_001061.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken4_001061.html)

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Hayashi stated that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council shouldering a huge responsibility for world peace and safety, has proven the need for a new framework for international order.**

- Hayashi stated that Japan will continue working with like-minded countries under Kishida to **reform the Security Council and join the Security Council as a permanent member.**
- Hayashi said **Japan will discuss Russia's G20 membership** with other member states and act accordingly.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken24\\_000104.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken24_000104.html)

- At a press conference on Sunday, Hayashi said that he stated before TICAD that **Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine is a unilateral change of the status quo by force and totally unacceptable as it constitutes a violation of international law which shakes the very foundations of the international order.**

- Hayashi said he also emphasized that the **international community needs to address the situation in a concerted manner.**
- Hayashi said there was **no discussion on China** at TICAD.

Source: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken24e\\_000112.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken24e_000112.html)

- On a TV program aired Sunday, Hayashi pointed out that Japan has taken strong measures against Russia in coordination with the rest of the G7. He said that the **sanctions are working**, as the ruble is down and interest rates are up.

- Hayashi stated that the **challenge going forward will be working together to further strengthen measures, and closing loopholes such as the temptation to buy cheap oil from Russia.**
- Hayashi emphasized that the **GOJ has not changed its basic position regarding peace treaty negotiations**, and plans to continue visaless exchanges and humanitarian activities.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220327/k10013554101000.html>

❖ Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Kishi said **Japan has not changed the official use of Ukrainian terminology such as for cities like Kyiv.**
  - Kishi said government ministries and agencies **use both the Russian and Ukrainian pronunciation for cities**, but that MOFA will continue to use the Russian pronunciation (*Kiefu*), which is used more commonly.

Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/kisha/2022/0329a.html>

❖ Chief Cabinet Secretary Matsuno Hirokazu

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Matsuno said the GOJ plans to request that **Japanese businesses deny Russian demands to pay for gas in rubles.**
- Source: <https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA2924A0Z20C22A3000000/>
- At a press conference on Monday, Matsuno said the **GOJ formally protested Russia's military exercise on the Northern Territories last week.**
  - Matsuno said the GOJ communicated its position that **Russia's strengthening of military presence in the Northern Territories is incompatible with Japan's position and is unacceptable.**
  - Matsuno said that although Japan's defense strategy is not designed with a specific country or region in mind, it will **drastically and swiftly bolster defense capabilities going forward.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220328/k10013556071000.html>

❖ Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi

- At a press conference on Friday, Hagiuda said **Japan does not plan to withdraw from any Russia-related oil or LNG projects it has rights in.**
  - This includes **Sakhalin 1 and 2**, as well as **Arctic LNG 2.**
  - Hagiuda explained that Japan has interests and has already secured long-term agreements, and that **acquiring a stable supply of energy at a lower price is extremely important for energy security.**
  - **Sakhalin 1 stakeholders:** METI, Itochu, Japan Petroleum Exploration Co., Marubeni and INPEX
  - **Sakhalin 2 stakeholders:** Mitsui & Co. & Mitsubishi Corp.
    - S-2 covers **9 percent of LNG imports** as well as **3 percent of Japan's electricity generation.**

- **Arc 2 stakeholders:** Mitsui & Co. & Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC)

Sources:

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA011B90R00C22A4000000/>;  
<https://jp.mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idJPKCN2LT2V5>

❖ Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi

- At a Diet session on Monday, Suzuki said **Japan's current law does not allow the GOJ to confiscate the reserves of foreign central banks held by the BOJ.**

Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-japan-reserves-idUST9N2VD046>

## 2. Other Notable Lawmakers

❖ LDP Policy Research Council Chair Takaichi Sanae

- At a lecture delivered in Niigata on Saturday, Takaichi said **there are limits to the UN's functions**. She stated that no decisions will be made if the victors of World War II and Russia have the right to veto.
  - She explained that although Japan has continued to cooperate with the UN on economic and humanitarian issues, the **UN Charter still includes the enemy state clause, which names Japan an "enemy state."**
  - She added that the **party will compile a set of proposals toward reform, including deleting the enemy state clause.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220326/k10013553591000.html>

❖ LDP Foreign Affairs Division Director Sato Masahisa

- At a party meeting on Friday, Sato said **Japan should make efforts to involve other Asian countries in sanctioning Russia.**
  - Sato stressed that **it is necessary to strengthen diplomacy in Asia** as the only representative of the region in the G7 and to ensure loopholes in sanctions are closed down.

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/sp/article?k=2022040100492&g=pol>