

“Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance”

Mr. ITO Shintaro

Leader of the Japanese delegation

I am Shintaro Ito, leader of the Japanese delegation.

It was on the 11th of March 12 years ago that the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami wrought a massive human toll on Japan. We are grateful for the support we have received from around the world. I would like to remember the victims of the recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria and to express my deepest condolences to all those affected. Japan intends, through the combined efforts of its public and private sectors, to fully cooperate in assisting the disaster victims and in the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas.

The peace and inclusiveness of society are being threatened as intolerance and discrimination spread. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has intensified conflicts and deepened divisions in the international community and jeopardized our peaceful coexistence. In addition, we see examples of serious human rights violations around the world. Many people are standing up to demand peace, freedom, and human rights.

In order to create a peaceful and inclusive society, it is critical that we share such universal values as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. Japan strongly condemns any violations of human rights. We will promote improvement in human rights conditions by working with international organizations and engaging in bilateral dialogue to understand the views of those parties concerned and offer ongoing cooperation. We will also provide countries around the world with assistance in human resource development, ensuring freedom of speech, and building and further developing systems for running elections and providing justice.

We will endeavor to take a leading role in creating an inclusive society in which people with diverse cultures and pluralistic values can coexist peacefully.

Thank you.