

March 1, 2017

## **Statement of the Embassy of Japan in Georgia**

**on the so-called “referendum” in the Georgia’s Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia  
and the closure of so-called crossing points along the occupation line of Abkhazia**

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**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has authorized the Embassy to issue the following statement.**

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It is Japan’s consistent position that peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia’s occupied regions of Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and Abkhazia in line with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders is essential for the peace and stability of the country and the entire South Caucasus region.

Japan expresses deep concern regarding the announced so-called “referendum” on changing the name of the Georgia’s Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, planned for April 9 as well as the closure of so-called crossing points along the occupation line of the Abkhazia region, which is causing grave violations of human rights, and reconfirms its above-mentioned position.

Japan and Georgia oppose any attempts to change Georgia’s internationally recognized borders.

These points are clearly expressed in the Joint Statement between Japan and Georgia on “Solidarity for Peace and Democracy” signed in October 2014.