

March 31, 2023

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### **Recommendations for the Expanded G7 Hiroshima Summit Defending Universal Values in the Indo-Pacific**

This year as Japan hosts the G7 Summit, the United Nations celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Human rights are the inalienable rights of all members of the human family that should be shared as universal values. All nations are expected to guarantee the human rights principles of freedom, dignity, and equality based on international norms as a fundamental responsibility.

In recent years, however, universal values such as human rights and freedom have been weakened around the world. A concerning situation also persists in parts of Asia where fundamental human rights and freedom of speech are being violated and civic space is shrinking. Moreover, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shaken the world's human rights norms as the most massive violations of human rights happening today.

Respect for human rights and human dignity are the cornerstones of human security. As the Prime Minister stated at the Second Summit for Democracy, improvement of the human rights situation cannot be achieved overnight. At this time, what the world should work on is a unified response from the international community; not only by governments, but also strengthening and supporting the role of civil society such as civil society organizations, media, and business.

As the host of the G7 summit, Japan is expected to promote solidarity among the G7 nations and partner countries who share universal values including human rights, maintain a "rules-based international order, and play a leadership role to protect human rights and freedom and defend the rule-of-law in each country.

In recognition of the above, we respectfully request the following principles to be reflected in the statement to be issued at the upcoming expanded G7 Hiroshima summit:

- While upholding a "rules-based international order" which is indispensable to global peace, we will safeguard universal values such as freedom and rule-of-law in each country.
- We will protect the freedom of expression and opinion and ensure a free and independent media.
- We will protect free and vibrant civic spaces.
- We commit to guarding the freedom, independence, and diversity of civil society actors.