

## **Chairman's Statement Concerning Russian Federation's Invasion into Ukraine**

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a military invasion of Ukraine, and it is reported that a large number people, including children, have already been killed.

It goes without saying that war is the biggest violation of human rights that threatens people's lives.

Moreover, Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that "All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in a way that does not endanger international peace and security and justice." Also, that "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

It is clear that the Russian Federation's military attack violates the Charter of the United Nations and constitutes a serious violation of human rights. We strongly condemn this action by the Russian Federation and call for an immediate end to the military invasion.

Reflecting on the past world wars, the Constitution of Japan stipulates the right to peaceful existence in its preface, saying "We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want." It also describes clearly that "We believe that no nation is responsible to itself alone, but that the laws of political morality are universal; and that obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations who would sustain their own sovereignty and justify their sovereign relationship with other nations." From this perspective, we expect international community including the Government of Japan, to make further efforts to resolve the issue through non-military means.

In response to the military invasion, there are calls for anti-war in Japan and around the world, and many citizens in Russia have expressed their opposition. We strongly support these civil movements and sincerely hope that the citizens of Ukraine and other countries can restore their peaceful days as soon as possible.

We, as lawyers, adamantly protest against the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine as our mission is to protect fundamental human rights and prevalent social justice. We release this statement in hope that the devastation of war can be promptly stopped by peaceful means.

March 10, 2022

Akihiro Hara

Chairman of Kumamoto Bar Association