

## **We Condemn the Russian Aggression in Ukraine and Express our Solidarity with the People of Ukraine**

### **Statement of the Kyoto Museum for World Peace**

We have doubted our ears and lost our words before a clear infringement of sovereignty and bare aggression of territory of an independent state in today's world of 21<sup>st</sup> century. And, this aggression has been committed by a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, who is expected to be responsible for ensuring the peace and security of the world.

Protection of its own nationals" or "acting on a quest for a help by another state" are some of the reasons given by President Putin. We had already heard these sentences more than a century ago when war was still allowed under international law. It is surprising to hear these expressions to justify the aggression, which is clearly prohibited under the current international law. The real reason appears to be the prevention of the expansion of NATO to Ukraine. Even if we are not comfortable with the tension which may be caused by Ukraine's inclusion into NATO, whatever the reason is, the tactics utilized by President Putin, who even hints at a use of nuclear weapon, are appalling and totally unacceptable.

The aggression which is currently taking place in Ukraine meets all the conditions of the definition of aggression adopted by the UN General Assembly and it is, therefore, a total breach of human rights of the Ukrainian people and its human security. It must be strongly deplored.

Many anti-war demonstrations are observed in many parts of the world, including in Russia itself. Although the latter seems to be crushed immediately, it leaves us with a small hope that the civil society could perhaps contribute to restoring a peace. Kyoto Museum for World Peace Ritsumeikan University, which tries to exhibit the farewell to war and idea of building a peaceful society with the power of the civil society, unequivocally deplores the aggression of Russia, declares our solidarity with the people standing up to restore peace, and strongly calls for the withdrawal of Russian

military forces from the Ukrainian soil, punish the war criminals and start a reparation process, all for the purpose of going back to the rule of law.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022