



2nd G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security

Tokyo, Japan

December 8, 2016

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Free, open and stable seas are a cornerstone for peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. In the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security of April 11, 2016, the Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the High Representative of the European Union, reaffirmed their commitment to further international cooperation on maritime security and safety. The G7 leaders endorsed the Statement at their summit in Ise-Shima in May 2016.

In the Statement, the G7 Foreign Ministers welcomed the convening of the 1st G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security hosted by Germany last December and encouraged efforts to promote understanding of international law including law of the sea such as organizing symposiums and seminars on the topic, while recognizing the importance of maintaining the sea as governed by the rule of law, which is indispensable for the peace and prosperity of the international community.

The 2nd G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security with participants representing the G7 member states, outreach states, and international organizations was held in Tokyo on December 8, 2016. The aim of the meeting was to follow up on Germany's initiative to engage in further discussions to address common challenges on maritime security and safety as the G7, and to identify concrete steps to translate the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security and the other relevant G7 statements into action.

By way of dedicated roundtables, the Meeting covered three major and interrelated dimensions of maritime security, each of which is mentioned prominently in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security. Japan as the G7 Presidency 2016 wishes to highlight the following key messages, which are crucial not only for the three selected and highly relevant subject areas covered by the roundtables, but also for advancing maritime security and safety as a whole. The discussion on maritime security in the G7 is expected to be further deepened during Italy's presidency in 2017.

Roundtable 1

Maintaining a maritime order based on the rule of law: Calling for peaceful management and settlement of maritime disputes

Roundtable 1 overviewed the role of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for peaceful management and settlement of maritime disputes. The G7 delegates and participants recognized that the legal order for the seas and oceans facilitates international communication, promotes the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans and the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, and supports economic order and security in the international community. They expressed their concern about the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and reaffirmed the importance of states' making and clarifying their claims based on international law, refraining from unilateral actions which could increase tensions and not using force or coercion in trying to drive their claims, and seeking to settle disputes by peaceful means including through juridical procedures including arbitration. They also reiterated the importance of exercising restraint and non-militarization as well as acting in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law including the freedom of navigation and overflight and encouraging further engagement in confidence building measures. They also reaffirmed that the Arbitral Tribunal's Award of July 12 on the Philippine-China case serves as a useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea. While welcoming the efforts by the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China to conclude the negotiations on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), they called for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and the early establishment of an effective COC. They also noted the example of the Arctic as a region where application of the law of the sea as reflected in UNCLOS had led to peaceful management of maritime affairs, including, in particular, affairs related to extended continental shelf delimitations.

Roundtable 2

Preventing illegal maritime activities: Strengthening capacity building and regional ownership and responsibility

Roundtable 2 examined ways to pursue international and regional cooperation to combat maritime security and safety challenges such as piracy and armed robbery at sea, transnational organized crime and terrorism in the maritime domain, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing,

with a particular focus on capability building activities of affected regions and countries especially in Africa and Southeast Asia, while addressing ways to enhance regional ownership and responsibility in fighting illegal maritime activities and dealing with their own vulnerabilities. The G7 delegates and participants reaffirmed the importance of regional ownership and responsibility as well as international and regional work, including the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and initiatives of G7 countries, to develop and support regional maritime security and safety capability building activities, including on financial and technical aspects, in fighting piracy and armed robbery at sea and other illegal maritime activities. They commended the work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), G7++Friends of the Gulf of Guinea and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), the UN and its specialized bodies, the NATO's Operations Ocean Shield and Active Endeavour, and the EU's Naval Force Operations Atalanta and Sophia in close collaboration with the Combined Maritime Force and national contributors. They welcomed the EU Maritime Security Strategy and national strategies outlined by G7 countries.

Roundtable 3

Providing scientific and technological support to enhance maritime security and safety: Fostering effective global maritime domain awareness and conserving the marine environment

Roundtable 3 identified research activities aimed at providing scientific and technological support to enhance maritime security and safety as well as Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), and explored measures to be taken to conserve the marine environment including the Arctic and other oceans with fragile ecosystems. The G7 delegates and participants encouraged efforts to promote effective global MDA which contributes to ensuring open and stable seas through helping countries share information, identify potential threats and work collaboratively to address growing challenges at sea, and enhancing maritime transparency. They recognized the importance of the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans and the sustainable use of marine resources as well as the effective protection of the marine environment, especially in the Arctic with its new potentials and challenges which they agreed to address based on the rule of law. They also touched upon taking steps to improve connectivity between Asia and Africa through a free and open Indo-Pacific and to promote stability and prosperity of the region as a whole including through regional mechanisms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). They welcomed the convening of the African Union Extraordinary

Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa held in Togo in October 2016.