

18 May, 2018

Japan-New Zealand Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
Joint Press Release on Cooperation in the Pacific

1. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan H.E. Mr. Taro Kono and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Rt. Hon. Winston Peters held a productive meeting in Tokyo on May 18, 2018, reflecting the excellent state of the Japan-New Zealand bilateral relationship which forms the basis of the two countries' strategic cooperative partnership.
2. The meeting took place ahead of the PALM8 (Eighth Pacific Island Leaders' Meeting), which Minister Peters welcomed as an illustration of Japan's commitment to the stability, development and prosperity of the Pacific region. Both Ministers confirmed their commitment to working closely together in the PALM process.
3. Both Ministers expressed their shared commitment to ensuring a free, open, stable, prosperous and rules-based international order including in the Indo-Pacific region. They expressed their determination to work together to promote peace, stability, prosperity and collective ambition as partners with common values and interests. In this context, they welcomed the deeper engagement of both countries in partnership with the Pacific Island countries under their respective policies, namely, Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" and New Zealand's "Pacific Reset".
4. Recognising that Pacific Island countries are facing complex and evolving challenges in areas such as maritime security and safety, climate change, environment, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, both Ministers confirmed their strong commitment to strengthening coordination and cooperation in the region including development assistance. To this end, they pledged to invigorate consultations and communications in all aspects of the bilateral relationship including through Pacific Consultations.