

JOINT DECLARATION

BETWEEN

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN

AND

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NEW ZEALAND

ON COOPERATION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs for Japan and New Zealand, H. E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu and the Rt Hon Winston Peters, met in Tokyo on this, the 31st day of October 2019. The Ministers reaffirmed the warmth and strength of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Japan and New Zealand, based on common values such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights, as well as a strong commitment to peace and security, free trade and investment and sustainable development.
2. The Ministers also reaffirmed their governments' commitment to strengthening their coordination and collaboration in the Pacific region, working in partnership with Pacific Island countries and regional institutions.
3. This Joint Declaration outlines the partnership objectives, priority areas for cooperation, and consultation processes for Japan-New Zealand cooperation in the Pacific Islands region. This activity will be grounded in the principles of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision and the Pacific Reset.
4. Both Japan and New Zealand share a mutual commitment to promoting peace and stability, increasing development effectiveness including through promoting quality infrastructure investment in accordance with the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment", and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with Pacific Island countries' and regional priorities. Both countries emphasise their ambition to work with Pacific Island countries as partners with common values and interests.

Objectives

5. Given the scale and complexity of the challenges facing the Pacific Islands region, Japan and New Zealand reaffirm the following objectives toward maintaining and promoting a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific:
 - To enhance regional stability and security, recognising the importance the region places on an expanded concept of security;
 - To advance Pacific well-being, prosperity and resilience through inclusive and sustainable development initiatives;
 - To deepen relationships with Pacific Island countries through active people-to-people exchanges and human resource development.

Priority Areas

6. Japan and New Zealand's priority areas for engagement in the Pacific are set out in Japan's "Active, Opportunity-filled, Innovative (AOI) Future" with Pacific Island countries and New Zealand's Pacific Reset. In seeking alignment between these

existing priorities, Japan and New Zealand will prioritise working together in the following areas:

- **Oceans**, including the promotion of sustainable fisheries, maritime law enforcement, and maritime domain awareness;
- **Climate Change**, in areas such as disaster risk reduction, resilient infrastructure, water security, renewable energy, and regional climate change capacity building and policy support;
- **Connectivity**, both hard and soft infrastructure for regional connectivity, such as airports, ports, and information and communication technology.

Consultation Processes

7. Japan and New Zealand seek to enhance coordination and cooperation related to their respective policy processes and development assistance programs through regular consultation across government that enables information sharing and coordinated engagement. This may include:
 - An Annual Japan-New Zealand Pacific Policy Dialogue between senior officials with a view to sharing policy updates and exploring specific areas of coordination and collaboration under our partnership;
 - Regular meetings between senior working-level experts at, or in the margins of, regional working groups such as the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility Sector Working Groups;
 - Liaison between Japan and New Zealand's policy officials and development experts at Embassies and High Commissions throughout the Pacific as well as in Tokyo and in Wellington, among others.

Cooperative initiatives

8. Japan and New Zealand have decided to continue to implement the ongoing projects in accordance with this Joint Declaration as follows:
 - Jointly supporting Climate Change capacity building of Pacific Island countries through the Pacific Climate Change Center in Samoa;
 - Supporting renewable energy training and maintenance initiatives in the Pacific to maximise the long-term effectiveness of the Pacific's renewable energy infrastructure;
 - Working together on Solomon Islands' aviation infrastructure; Japan is improving the Honiara international airport and New Zealand has funded a major upgrade of Munda airport and provincial airfields;
 - Jointly investing in a new hospital and equipment for Betio in South Tarawa to ensure an effective joint contribution to health outcomes in Kiribati;
 - Working together on water security; Japan has provided water equipment (well-drilling equipment and rainwater storage tanks etc) to Pacific Island countries and New Zealand is currently establishing a significant water security programme;
 - Cooperating in providing maritime law enforcement capacity building for Pacific Island countries in partnership with the University of South Pacific;
 - Regular consultations on Disaster Risk Reduction work in Fiji through each country's representatives in Suva to ensure their complementary investments have maximum impact.

Way forward

9. This Joint Declaration and the proposed actions will be reviewed annually at the Japan - New Zealand Pacific Dialogue.