

Japan-UK Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue 2020 – Joint press statement¹

Japan and the UK are the closest of friends and partners. Today, we reaffirmed our commitment to work together to provide global leadership including tackling climate change, safely harnessing the potential of emerging technologies, maintaining regional security, enhancing sustainable and self-reliant development, bolstering free trade, and safeguarding the rules-based international system, as well as democracy and human rights. We talked about our commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific and discussed the UK's vision of Global Britain as a force for good.

We looked forward to the opportunities our new trade and investment relationship will bring. We reaffirmed our previous commitment to use the Japan EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) as the basis for the future economic partnership. In line with our commitment to free trade, we will work quickly to make the new partnership as ambitious, high standard and mutually beneficial as the Japan-EU EPA. We reconfirmed that ensuring business continuity, including by transparency, predictability and legal stability is paramount. The UK reiterated its interest in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. Japan welcomes the UK's interest and reaffirmed its support for the UK in this context.

Ahead of the UK hosting COP26 in November, we confirmed the need for ambitious, rapid and effective global action to mitigate climate change.

We committed to continue to provide leadership in maintaining regional security, and uphold the rules-based international system. Building on joint activity in support of United Nations (UN) sanctions against North Korea and the Royal Navy's six deployments to Northeast Asia since 2018², we looked forward to further deployments and joint cooperation. In this context, we recognised the need for continuing to work on an arrangement that would reciprocally improve administrative, policy and legal procedures for joint operations and exercises, which would contribute to enhancing complex interoperability between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and the British Armed Forces. We also discussed the importance of securely sharing information, to support our joint work and enable further collaboration in defence equipment and technology.

We decided to work ever more closely together to support partners in third countries to tackle threats such as terrorism, cyber, and piracy. We exchanged views on maritime security capacity-building projects we might be able to cooperate on and the continuation of cooperation on counter-terrorism projects related to aviation security and improvised explosive devices in Asia, and resolved to do more, including cooperation on infrastructure.

Looking ahead to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 this summer, we resolved to continue close collaboration to strengthen cyber resilience, including

¹ The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK, the Rt Hon Dominic Raab, met in Tokyo on 8 February 2020 for Japan-UK Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue.

² Royal Navy Ships visits to Northeast Asia include: HMS Sutherland, Albion and Argyll in 2018 and HMS Montrose and Enterprise twice in 2019.

capacity-building in third countries. We also committed to ensure a free, open, peaceful, and secure cyberspace; and to respond to cyberattacks, including by calling out irresponsible state actors.

Building on the 2019 Joint Statement³, we exchanged views on the situation regarding North Korea and shared the view to continue close coordination toward the complete denuclearization of North Korea, including full implementation of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. We also shared the view to continue to cooperate closely toward early resolution of the abductions issue. We also expressed concern about the situation in the South China Sea and East China Sea and strongly opposed any unilateral action that seeks to change the status quo and increase tensions. We also underscored the importance of the Code of Conduct to be consistent with international law, as reflected in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight, and not to prejudice the rights and interests of the stakeholders using the South China Sea. We shared deep concern about the security situation in the Middle East, and noted the urgent need for de-escalation, including the importance of Iran reversing all measures inconsistent with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

We decided to work closely to manage and contain the spread of the novel coronavirus 2019⁴ and to support China's efforts in combating the outbreak.

As this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the UN, we reaffirmed our commitment to the Secretary-General's reform initiatives, and to realise an early reform of the UNSC⁵.

³ UK-Japan Joint Statement 10 January 2019, "We reiterated the importance of the international community's commitment to the complete, verifiable and irreversibly dismantlement of all North Korea's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and ballistic missiles as well as its related programs and facilities, in accordance with relevant UNSCRs. We urge North Korea to take concrete steps towards this end and call upon all UN member states to fully implement relevant UNSCRs which are to be maintained until the aforementioned goal is achieved".

⁴ 2019-nCoV

⁵ Including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories of UNSC.