

## **Japan-New Zealand Joint Leaders' Statement**

**19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

### **Bilateral Cooperation**

1. Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon held a productive and substantive meeting in Tokyo on 19 June 2024. Prime Minister Kishida welcomed Prime Minister Luxon on his first official engagement in Japan.

2. More than 10 years have passed since the establishment of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Japan and New Zealand, and the horizons of cooperation between the two countries are wider than ever. The leaders emphasised the close and strong bilateral relations and expressed their ambition to give further impetus to the Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which is founded on common values and shared interests, including supporting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, human dignity, and gender equality, in order to contribute together to regional and international peace and prosperity.

### **Security and Defence Cooperation**

3. Recognising the National Security Strategy of Japan (issued in December 2022) and New Zealand's first National Security Strategy 2023-2028, the leaders shared an awareness of the increasingly challenging strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific region and concurred to further strengthen their cooperative relationship under the Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

4. The leaders welcomed the strengthened security relationship between Japan and New Zealand and affirmed their shared commitment to the further deepening of cooperation and exchanges. They welcomed the agreement in principle of an Information Security Agreement, which provides a framework for sharing classified information. The leaders concurred to cooperate on further bilateral and plurilateral activities and exercises, including in the area of maritime security, and to accelerate discussions on a possible acquisition and cross servicing agreement.

### **Economic cooperation**

5. Over the last 50 years, Japan and New Zealand have developed a strong economic partnership, especially in relation to sustainable agriculture and food

systems, based on natural complementarity and strong business relationships. The leaders reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the partnership in food and agriculture, first articulated 10 years ago.

6. The leaders committed to enhancing cooperation in economic fields such as renewable energy, including geothermal and green hydrogen. The leaders shared an ambition to facilitate a business environment conducive to private sector collaboration and investment on research and development, commercialization, and deployment of climate solutions.

7. The leaders welcomed the forthcoming launch of a jointly funded bilateral research programme, this year focused on disaster mitigation, response, and recovery. The leaders also acknowledged Japan and New Zealand's joint participation in the e-ASIA multi-country research programme, working together with partners mainly in South-East Asia. The leaders concurred on continuing science, innovation, and technology collaboration, including future iterations of the SICORP programme.

8. The leaders also welcomed the growing space industry connections, including collaboration on launching satellites.

#### People-to-people Exchanges

9. The leaders acknowledged the role people-to-people exchanges play in developing the future stewards of the Japan-New Zealand relationship. In this regard, they recognised the importance of exchange programs between the countries, including the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. They also recognised the important role that the 44 sister city partnerships between their local municipalities have played in strengthening bilateral relations over the past 50 years. This is the largest number of sister city partnerships that New Zealand cities have with overseas cities.

#### **Regional Cooperation**

10. Amid growing challenges to the fundamental values and principles shared by Japan and New Zealand and their like-minded partners in the region and beyond, the leaders reiterated their shared commitment to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law, to ensure that the region remains inclusive, stable

and prosperous, and free from foreign interference and coercion, and that the rights, freedoms and sovereignty of all countries, regardless of their size or power, are protected. They emphasised the importance of upholding the free and open international order based on the rule of law as well as international law, including the principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular the prohibition of the threat or use of force. They also expressed strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion anywhere in the world.

11. The leaders renewed Japan and New Zealand's commitment to strongly support the peace, prosperity, stability and unity of the Pacific region and strengthen existing regional architecture and organisations. They also committed to further solidify the vision of the February 2023 Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Pacific Islands Region and the June 2023 Statement of Intent on Pacific Defence Cooperation towards advancing Pacific priorities. They welcomed and reaffirmed the close cooperation between the two countries to support progress towards the vision outlined in the Pacific Islands Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process. The leaders welcomed cooperation with all partners that shared objectives based on the region's priorities.

12. The leaders reaffirmed freedom of navigation and overflight, and other lawful uses of the seas in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They reiterated the importance of resolving disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law, without resorting to the threat or use of force.

13. The leaders expressed serious concerns over recent developments in the South China Sea and an intensification of destabilising activities, including the continued militarisation of disputed features; unsafe and unprofessional behaviour at sea and in the air; and other dangerous actions by coast guard and maritime militia. The leaders opposed any unilateral actions that could escalate tensions and undermine regional stability and the international rules-based order, emphasised the obligation of all states to adhere to international law, and reiterated that all claims to maritime zones must be consistent with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS. They further emphasised the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. They reiterated that the 2016 South China Sea

Arbitral Award is final and binding on the parties to those proceedings, and called on both parties to abide by the ruling.

14. The leaders expressed serious concerns about the situation in the East China Sea. They shared an intention to remain in close communication and expressed strong opposition to any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion and increase tensions in the area.

15. The leaders restated the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and called for peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues.

16. The leaders strongly condemned North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. They urged North Korea to cease provocative actions, and to fully comply with all of its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. They also reiterated their commitment to achieving North Korea's complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with UNSC resolutions and called on North Korea to take concrete actions toward that goal. They condemned North Korea's malicious cyber activities that fund its unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. They also condemned in the strongest possible terms the increasing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including North Korea's export and Russia's procurement of North Korean ballistic missiles in violation of UNSC resolutions, as well as Russia's use of these missiles against Ukraine.

17. The leaders condemned the recent veto of the UNSC resolution renewing the mandate of the panel of experts on North Korea. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing and enforcing the UNSC resolutions, including addressing North Korea's sanction evading tactics such as "ship-to-ship transfers," and shared the importance of further international collaboration for this goal. Prime Minister Kishida welcomed New Zealand's continued engagement in monitoring and surveillance activities against such illicit maritime activities, including the recent deployment of the Royal New Zealand Air Force's P-8A Poseidon in Japan, and New Zealand's announcement of further intended deployments this year, including naval assets for the first time. Prime Minister Luxon expressed understanding and strong support for Japan in its efforts to immediately resolve

the abductions issue.

18. The leaders reaffirmed the importance of their enhanced partnership with ASEAN to realize a free, open, inclusive, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific. They reiterated their strong support for ASEAN unity and centrality and their full support for the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” (AOIP), which upholds principles such as the rule of law, openness, freedom, transparency, and inclusiveness.

19. The leaders emphasised the importance of close communication with partner countries, including Australia and the Republic of Korea, to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. From this perspective, they welcomed the opportunity to work together to progress collaboration under the “Indo-Pacific 4” format.

### **Global Cooperation**

20. The leaders noted the strong working relationship between Japan and New Zealand on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). They welcomed the future expansion of the CPTPP, based upon the consensus of the CPTPP member countries, to include economies that are able to fully meet, implement and adhere to its high standards and have a demonstrated pattern of complying with trade commitments. They also emphasised the importance of working with other CPTPP member countries to uphold the high standards of the CPTPP, ensuring the Agreement benefits our two economies, and to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region and the world. They recognised the strategic significance of the CPTPP and reaffirmed its importance in promoting free and fair trade, and open and competitive markets, including as a tool to counter economic coercion and unfair trade practices.

21. The leaders reaffirmed that Japan and New Zealand are both committed to ambitious implementation of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Supply Chain Agreement, Clean Economy Agreement, and Fair Economy Agreement, and recognised the value of collaborating through IPEF Collaborative Work Programmes on areas of mutual interest.

22. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining and strengthening a free, fair, and rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade

Organization at its core and to work towards necessary reform of all its functions, including having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024 building on the progress already made. The two countries will promote their efforts to intensify discussions in the WTO on contemporary trade-related issues such as trade and industrial policy, trade and sustainability, and trade and inclusion. The leaders commit to working towards the prompt conclusion of negotiations of the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-commerce. The leaders will cooperate to support the incorporation of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement into the legal framework of the WTO.

23. The leaders concurred on enhancing cooperation on economic resilience and economic security including in addressing economic coercion, non-market policies and practices, and other harmful practices that create strategic dependencies and systemic vulnerabilities. The leaders are committed to working together to enhance resilient and reliable supply chains, especially for strategic goods and materials, based on the principles of transparency, diversification, security, sustainability, and trustworthiness, and reliability. The leaders concurred on enhancing bilateral dialogues on economic security through various meeting opportunities.

24. The leaders reaffirmed their unwavering determination to support democratic Ukraine as it defends its democratic freedom, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. They called on Russia to abide by its international obligations and immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces and equipment from the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine. In this context, the leaders reaffirmed that threats by Russia of nuclear weapons use, let alone any use of nuclear weapons by Russia, in the context of its war of aggression against Ukraine are inadmissible. The leaders concurred on the importance of continuing to remind third countries of their duty to uphold international law and in no way to validate or condone Russia's attempts to acquire territory by force, in violation of the basic tenets of the UN Charter. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to raise the costs for the architects of Russia's illegal and unjustified aggression by applying economic and financial sanctions, which target strategic and economic sectors of significance, as well as Russia's elite.

25. The leaders expressed deep concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. They highlighted the urgent need for a ceasefire, release of hostages, and relieving the humanitarian crisis. The leaders reiterated calls for the parties to the conflict to act in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law.

26. The leaders noted that both Japan and New Zealand recently joined 141 other nations in voting in favour of the Resolution of 10 May 2024 enhancing Palestine's participation in the UN General Assembly. The leaders recognized that this resolution was a positive step towards an eventual two-state solution, which Japan and New Zealand have long supported. The leaders concurred that a durable and just solution to the conflict can only be achieved where Israel and a future independent Palestinian state live side by side in peace and security.

27. The leaders stressed the importance of early reform of the UNSC, including expanding its membership, reaffirming the need to further enhance the legitimacy, effectiveness, and representativeness of the UNSC to better reflect the realities and challenges of the international community in the twenty first century. They reaffirmed the importance of an expanded, democratic, equitable, transparent, and accountable UNSC.

28. Recognising the increasing threats to the information environment, the leaders concurred on the importance of cooperation in strategic communication to ensure a fact-based and resilient information environment and to address foreign information manipulation and interference including dissemination of disinformation.

29. The leaders committed to continued cooperation to combat transnational organised crime. They recognised that enhanced collaboration and intelligence sharing between customs and other law enforcement agencies enable both countries to respond to these risks and more effectively protect their communities from harm.

30. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and implementing the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake. The leaders welcomed the continued cooperation between Japan and New Zealand in support of peace, science, and environmental protection in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and

emphasised that the Antarctic Treaty System provides an effective and enduring international governance framework for Antarctica.

31 The leaders emphasised the importance of maintaining and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Reaffirming the obligations of all States Parties under the NPT, including Article VI of the Treaty, the leaders reiterated that considerable work remains to be done to advance nuclear disarmament and that global nuclear arsenals must continue to decline. In view of the tense international security environment, the leaders stressed that the 78-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons must be maintained, recognising the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. They reaffirmed their commitment to promoting and pursuing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) without further delay and the early commencement of the negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

### **Bilateral Consultations**

32. The leaders looked forward to meeting again, and shared the expectation that the two countries will strengthen bilateral cooperation and coordination through more frequent consultation at all levels, considering the complex strategic environment in the region and beyond.