

Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership  
between Japan and the Portuguese Republic

On the occasion of the meeting between the Prime Minister of Japan, ISHIBA Shigeru, and the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, Luís MONTENEGRO, in Tokyo on 11 September 2025, the two leaders welcomed the announcement of the Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

(Shared values towards peace and a more stable world)

1. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Portugal, as partners sharing values and principles such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, have a history of friendship and cooperation spanning more than 480 years.
2. Japan and Portugal, as well as the international community, are facing an increasingly challenging security environment with geopolitical tensions and instability on the rise. The two leaders recognized that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific regions is closely connected, and decided to further deepen bilateral relations as a means of strengthening their response to the changing strategic environment.
3. Therefore, Japan and Portugal have declared that their bilateral relationship will be a strategic partnership and will strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on a plethora of issues with a view to maintaining and strengthening multilateralism and a free and open international order based on the rule of law, with the United Nations (UN) Charter at its core, including a free and open Indo-Pacific.
4. The two leaders are committed to strengthening political cooperation between the two countries. In addition to dialogue at the political level, Japan and Portugal will continue bilateral consultations between the diplomatic and defense authorities on a wide range of topics, including international peace and security, as well as defense equipment cooperation, and will continue to share their assessment of responses to challenges in the international environment. In this regard, the two leaders shared their views on how to promote further Japan-NATO cooperation.
5. As the UN celebrates their 80th anniversary, Japan and Portugal are committed to upholding multilateralism and to assisting the Organization in overcoming the unprecedented challenges it faces, by remaining predictable and reliable partners, and by contributing to a more effective, cost-efficient, transparent and responsive UN.
6. The two leaders reiterated that Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a grave violation of international law, particularly the UN Charter. They expressed solidarity with Ukraine and reaffirmed their support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as condemned the reckless, irresponsible, and escalatory nuclear rhetoric of Russia as a menace to the peace and security of the international community.
7. The two leaders also acknowledged the far-reaching consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine which affect countries throughout the globe. Therefore, they called on all parties concerned to refrain from providing Russia with any assistance that would contribute to the continuation of its aggression, including

aiding in the circumvention of sanctions and providing Russia with dual-use materials, such as the components for weapons, equipment, and raw materials. They concurred to work together towards ensuring the transparent and fair provision of assistance to Ukraine, including in the areas of recovery and reconstruction.

8. The two leaders also condemned the increasing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including North Korea's export and Russia's procurement of North Korea's ballistic missiles and munitions in breach of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs), and Russia's use of these missiles and munitions against Ukraine, as well as the engagement in combat against Ukraine of North Korean troops deployed to Russia. They shared the concern that any support from Russia to North Korea may exacerbate the already tense environment on the Korean Peninsula. They urged Russia and North Korea to immediately cease all such activities and abide by the UN Charter and all relevant UNSCRs. The cooperation negatively impacts security both in the Indo-Pacific and in Europe.
9. The two leaders strongly condemned North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, which is in violation of relevant UNSCRs. They reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea and demanded that North Korea abandon all its nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and any other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, in accordance with all relevant UNSCRs. They underscored the need to deter and counter North Korea's malicious cyber activities, including cryptocurrency thefts which fund its unlawful WMD and ballistic missile programs. They urged all UN Member States to fully implement all relevant UNSCRs. They urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue immediately.
10. The two leaders affirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Recognizing the benefits of having the oceans and seas peaceful and prosperous, they emphasized the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, and strongly opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, including in the Indo-Pacific region, which undermine stability and challenge the international order based on the rule of law.
11. The two leaders expressed great concern with the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the prolonged continuation of the conflict that has caused significant loss of lives, including innocent civilians, aid workers, and journalists. Japan and Portugal reiterated calls for the rapid, unimpeded and large-scale entry of humanitarian aid and emphasized that humanitarian aid must never be contingent on political or military considerations. They reaffirmed their commitment in supporting UNRWA. The two leaders strongly opposed the recent announcement by the Government of Israel to further intensify the military offensive in Gaza City, and expressed grave concern over the worsening humanitarian situation. They recalled the outcome of the High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held in New York from July 28 to 30, and reiterated their commitment towards achieving peace in the region and renouncing military solutions. Japan and Portugal firmly oppose any action that undermines the realization of a two-state solution, including the

reoccupation of Gaza and the expansion of settlement activities in the West Bank and East-Jerusalem. The two leaders condemned the terror attacks by Hamas and others against Israel in October 7, 2023 and urged Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release all remaining hostages.

12. The two leaders recognized the significance of enhancing economic resilience and economic security, including the stable supply of strategic goods, diversification of supply chains, and building resilience of critical infrastructure. They also emphasized the importance of addressing harmful practices such as non-market policies and practices, the overcapacity resulting from them and economic coercion. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation in these areas, including through information-sharing and coordinated policy responses. They recognized that transparency, diversification, security, sustainability, trustworthiness, and reliability are essential principles for building and strengthening resilient supply-chain networks with trusted partners in line with international norms, obligations, as well as free, fair and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationships.

(Cooperation in various fields)

13. The two leaders highlighted the need to strengthen Japan-Portugal bilateral economic cooperation, including in investment and trade. They concurred on the importance of fostering economic cooperation making use of the opportunities provided by frameworks such as the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and others. They affirmed the importance of maintaining and strengthening a free, fair, and rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core and concurred on working together on WTO reform to improve all its functions.
14. Japan and Portugal, as maritime nations, recognize the importance of conservation and sustainability of the ocean, seas and marine resources, including through the effective implementation and conclusion of multilateral ocean-related processes, and acknowledge the opportunities offered by the blue economy.
15. The two leaders underlined the importance of promoting sustainable development and recalled their commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda.
16. The two leaders expressed concern regarding the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and continued commitment with the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant international instruments.
17. Japan and Portugal share a rich history of diverse and dynamic people-to-people exchanges, spanning culture, sports, tourism, education, science and technology and innovation. They shared the view that these interactions serve as a solid foundation for fostering long-term collaboration between the two countries, particularly among future generations. They reaffirmed their commitment to enhance people-to-people cooperation, including through the opportunities offered by the Working Holiday Program.

18. Japan and Portugal welcomed the progress of cooperation between private companies in areas such as infrastructure and renewable energy, and shared the view that they will work together to revitalize investment, which includes promoting mutual visits between Japanese and Portuguese citizens.
19. Japan and Portugal confirmed the importance of development cooperation with third countries such as Portuguese speaking countries or others of mutual interest, and shared the view that they will both work together through the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Camões – Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P.
20. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Portugal would cooperate in the international arena, including in the UN. Japan and Portugal intend to deepen cooperation in strengthening the functions of the UN, including the urgent reform of the Security Council.
21. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate cooperation in international disaster risk reduction in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. They emphasized the critical role of a disaster preparedness approach and the need for investment in people, goods, and infrastructure for disaster risk reduction, as well as to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
22. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. They also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime as the cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, and are jointly determined to continue to work together in this area. Furthermore, they affirmed the importance of ensuring nuclear safety, security, and safeguards (3S) in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and reiterated their firm support for the relevant efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
23. The two leaders will promote cooperation on global issues such as global health and climate change, with a view to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and strengthening global health architecture.
24. The two leaders welcomed the success of EXPO 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan, to date and Portugal's participation in it. Prime Minister ISHIBA further welcomed Portugal's ongoing consideration on the participation in the GREEN x Expo 2027 to be held in Yokohama.
25. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned commitments and seeking to support the effective implementation of the Joint Statement, the two governments will review the implementation of the Joint Statement at regular, mutually acceptable intervals and pursue the drawing up of an Action Plan with a view to the continued strengthening of the bilateral relations.