

**Joint Press Statement**  
**Visit by President Macri of the Argentine Republic to Japan**

H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and H.E. Mr. Mauricio Macri, President of the Argentine Republic had a fruitful meeting in Tokyo on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening the bilateral relationship and strengthening the Japan-Argentina Strategic Partnership.

On the basis of the Japan-Argentina Joint Statement on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the two leaders, as follows, confirmed the progress and achievement to date and instructed to further enhance the bilateral relations.

**I Bilateral Relations**

Political Relations

1. Prime Minister Abe expressed his continued support for President Macri's ongoing efforts for Argentina's internal reform, and highlighted the importance of the President's leadership for the transformation of the Latin America.
2. The two leaders welcomed the continuing mutual visits by both countries' political leaders, Members of parliaments and business leaders after the summit meeting in November 2016. They confirmed to further strengthen, through the Political Dialogue meeting to be convened in June 2017 in Buenos Aires, two countries' cooperation as strategic partners sharing fundamental values in various areas, including close coordination in G20, the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international fora.
3. The two leaders shared the view to further expand the political, economic, cultural and human exchanges, and work actively to organize commemorative and other events, as the year 2018 marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between the two countries.
4. The two leaders stressed their interest in continuing to strengthen the bilateral relationship on Antarctic scientific cooperation, through a greater and more effective convergence in Antarctic fora, and expressed their expectation for the signing of the Memorandum on Antarctic Scientific Cooperation between the

National Institute of Polar Research of Japan and the Dirección Nacional del Antártico of Argentina.

### Economic Relations

5. The two leaders welcomed a substantial agreement reached on the bilateral investment agreement negotiations that had been launched in September 2016, and confirmed to strengthen interactions between the private sectors of the two countries through an early conclusion and entry into force of the agreement. The two leaders instructed the teams to launch the work for negotiations on a bilateral agreement on trade in services and electronic-commerce.
6. The two leaders welcomed the progress in the negotiations and shared the intention of an early conclusion of the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance and Cooperation in Customs Matters. The aim of said instrument is to assist both countries through their Customs Administrations to ensure proper application of customs laws, and to prevent, investigate and repress any customs offense as well as to make cooperative efforts for simplification and harmonization of their customs procedures.
7. The two leaders, with a view to further enhancing investment and economic exchanges between the two countries, reaffirmed the importance of the conclusion of an agreement on avoidance of double taxation and instructed relevant ministries to commence the consultation at an early occasion.
8. The two leaders, confirming the importance of quality infrastructure investment, welcomed the resumption of loan operation in Argentina by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which has started with a railway sector project, and expressed their expectation for the formulation of further projects. President Macri expressed Argentina's interest in access to financing schemes of other Japanese government-affiliated organizations. The two leaders confirmed to make efforts to improve the business and investment environment, in order to further promote the investment and economic exchanges between the two countries.
9. The two leaders welcomed the progress made concerning trade in fresh beef and fresh ovine meat of Argentina and fresh beef of Japan. The Japanese side

submitted the issue of fresh beef and fresh ovine meat from Patagonia to the Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies, based on the results of the on-site visit that took place in March 2017, as part of the examination of the export of these Argentine products to Japan. Taking into account the request made by the Argentine side, the Japanese side will initiate the examination of the issues regarding fresh beef from the rest of the country to Japan. Taking into account the request made by the Japanese side, the Argentine side consented to cooperate for the on-site visit to be conducted by September this year in Japan, as part of the examination of the export of Japanese fresh beef to Argentina. The two leaders instructed to continue making efforts for the progress on the ongoing works on market access for fresh fruits from Argentina. The two leaders also supported the development of cooperation between Japanese and Argentine veterinary authorities and national veterinary research laboratories on transmittable animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease (FMD). The two leaders further welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation in the areas of agriculture, livestock, fishing, forestry and agro-industry between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Ministry of Agroindustry of Argentina, which sets up a bilateral dialogue on these sectors, and instructed coordination for an early convening of the first meeting under this framework.

10. The two leaders welcomed “the Road Map for the Cooperation on Enhancement of Trade and Investment between Japan and Argentina 2017” developed by the Japan-Argentina Joint Committee on Promoting Trade and Investment, and shared the importance of steady implementation for the agenda therein. They further welcomed the Japan-Argentina Joint Economic Forum successfully convened in Tokyo on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the next Japan-Argentina Joint Committee on Promoting Trade and Investment to be held in the second half of 2017 in Tokyo, and convening in the second half of 2017 of Dialogue for Argentine-Japanese Trade and Investment Relations.
11. Prime Minister Abe appreciated Argentina’s decision to accelerate the reassessment of the import requirements applied after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.
12. The two leaders welcomed the strengthening of information dissemination on business by resumption of the dispatch of the Japan External Trade Organization

(JETRO) Japanese resident representative to its Buenos Aires Office in January 2017, as well as the scheduled dispatch in July to Argentina of a JETRO service industry mission.

13. The two leaders welcomed the signing on the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Ministry of Communications of the Argentine Republic on the Cooperation in the Digital Terrestrial Television Sector and in the Field of Information and Communication Technology and also expressed their expectations towards the further advancement of bilateral cooperation in both area.
14. The two leaders welcomed the progress in the preparation for inaugurating “the Kaizen Project” aimed to improve the productivity of Argentine small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and considering the Argentine interest, instructed to advance coordination for cooperating to promote “One Village, One Product”. The two leaders also instructed relevant authorities to expand triangular cooperation to Latin America and Africa.
15. The two leaders welcomed the substantive exchanges on current trade policy and experiences at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dialogue to Strengthen the Economic Relationship between Japan and MERCOSUR on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and instructed relevant authorities to continue to strengthen the economic partnership between Japan and MERCOSUR.

#### People-to-people Exchanges

16. The two leaders welcomed the deepening of the people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries. On the tourism front, President Macri welcomed the participation of Japan for the first time in the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of International Tourism Trade Fair of Latin America held annually in Buenos Aires. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Argentine Republic on a Working Holiday Program, the first such arrangement Japan makes with a Latin American country. This program will promote youth exchange and tourism, leading to greater cooperation and a deeper understanding of the culture and general way of life between the two countries.

17. The two leaders shared the intention to further accelerate cooperation in sports and other areas including people-to-people exchange, towards the success of the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games and Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. President Macri highly appreciated the specific cooperation by the Government of Japan through its “Sport for Tomorrow” initiative.
18. The two leaders valued that more than 100 Argentine nationals visited Japan in the last one year, through various programs including the Japanese Government’s scholarship program and invitation programs, as well as JICA training programs, and welcomed the steady progress in research and educational exchanges between the two countries.

## **II Cooperation in International Fora**

19. The two leaders re-emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security, and freedom of navigation and overflight as well as a rules-based approach to the peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law.
20. The two leaders condemned in the strongest terms North Korea’s nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches and strongly urged North Korea to refrain from any further provocation and to comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and other international commitments, and to return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. They reaffirmed the importance of sustained and comprehensive implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions. They also strongly urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue immediately.
21. The two leaders determined to continue working jointly on the issues of common interest within the G20, including those related to the future Argentine Presidency in 2018.
22. They also shared the intention to intensify efforts towards a successful MC11 (Buenos Aires, December 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) in order to further strengthen the function of

WTO, with the concerns of emergence of protectionism and inward-looking mindset, reconfirming the importance of and their firm commitment towards the multilateral trade system in which the WTO plays a central role.

23. Prime Minister Abe congratulated Argentina for her policy of increased engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to capitalize on OECD high standards and good practice for improvement of her public policies. Prime Minister Abe also noted with sincere interest Argentina's wish to eventually obtain a new status at that organization.

Tokyo, May 19th, 2017