

Joint Press Statement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and Georgia

1. H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and H.E. Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia held a meeting and discussed a wide range of issues on June 2, 2017 in Tokyo on the occasion of Minister Janelidze's visit to Japan from May 30 to June 5.
2. Recalling the Joint Statement between Japan and Georgia on "Solidarity for Peace and Democracy" issued in October 2014 on the occasion of President Margvelashvili's visit to Japan, both sides reviewed the achievements in the bilateral relations up to the present and exchanged views on their future direction.
3. Recalling that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Georgia, both sides shared the view that they will further develop the friendly relations between the two countries in many fields. Both sides confirmed their intentions to expand interactions in various fields in order to deepen mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.
4. Both sides reaffirmed that sharing fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law constitutes a significant foundation of their bilateral relations, on which both sides expressed their willingness to further develop bilateral relations.
5. Expressing their satisfaction at the active dialogue that has been underway between the two governments in recent years, both sides expressed their intentions to further promote dialogue to broaden the range of bilateral relations. In this respect, both sides welcomed the recent exchange of high-level visits between Japan and Georgia. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia extended an invitation to Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to visit Georgia.
6. The Japanese side expressed its expectation that Georgia's integration into the European market highlighted by the Association Agreement including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between Georgia and the European Union (EU) will lead to the further development of Georgia. The Japanese side also expressed its appreciation for the favorable business environment in Georgia which should contribute to increased and diversified investments from Japanese businesses to Georgia.
7. Emphasizing the importance of ensuring a free and open international order and

enhancing regional connectivity, both sides reaffirmed Georgia's geographical importance as the westward corridor for transportation of energy resources and other commodities to the regions including Europe. In this regard, both sides underlined that efforts to enhance connectivity in the international community should satisfy international standards, including ensuring openness of infrastructure, such as ports, in order to contribute to peace and prosperity of the international community.

8. Both sides valued the role by Japan's economic cooperation in contributing to the stability and development of Georgia and in strengthening relations between the two countries. The Georgian side welcomed the establishment of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Georgia Office.
9. Both sides welcomed the start of negotiations on a bilateral investment agreement and expressed its expectation that the agreement will contribute to further strengthening bilateral economic relations.
10. The Georgian side welcomed Japan's announcement of relaxation of visa requirement for nationals of Georgia for the purpose of strengthening the business relationship and further expanding people-to-people exchange between the two countries.
11. Both sides discussed the possibility of deepening economic relations, including the fields of technology and innovations, through accelerating trade and investments, as well as sharing Japanese experience.
12. Both sides shared the view that peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia's occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia based on the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia is essential for the peace and stability of the country and the wider region. Both sides stressed the necessity of implementation of Ceasefire Agreement of August 12, 2008 and the tangible progress in the Geneva International Discussions. Both sides underlined the importance of international efforts with the aim to resolve the issue of occupation of Georgia's regions.
13. Both sides recognized the importance of the rights of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, regardless of ethnicity, first of all their right to safe and dignified return to the places of origin in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and General Assembly resolutions.

14. The Georgian side highly appreciated the fact that Japan has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation since the end of the Second World War, referring to Japan's efforts to maintain peace of the international community for 70 years after the War. In this regard, the Japanese side affirmed its determination to contribute even more proactively to securing peace, stability and prosperity of the world under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation and Japan's "Legislation for Peace and Security" as its concrete practice of the policy, which came into force in March, 2016. The Georgian side reconfirmed its policy of integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the EU and emphasized its commitment to contribute to international peace including through its participation in Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan as well as EU led crises management operations in the Republic of Central Africa and Mali. Both sides expressed support for each other's efforts and reaffirmed their willingness to play further proactive roles in the peace, stability and prosperity of the international society.
15. Both sides expressed their opposition to any unilateral attempts which increase tensions through threat, coercion or force. Both sides shared the view that it is important and for the common interest of the two countries to take measures for maintaining peace and stability of the international community, based on the principles of the rule of law.
16. Both sides emphasized that the UNSC needs to be more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions in order to reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century. From this point of view, both sides emphasized the need to cooperate closely in the Intergovernmental Negotiations in New York. The Japanese side expressed its appreciation for Georgia's continued support for the permanent membership of Japan in a reformed UNSC.
17. Both sides affirmed their commitment to uphold freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with the principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Both sides maintain consistently that any disputes and differences should be resolved only by peaceful means through the existing diplomatic channels and legal mechanisms, based on the universally recognized principles of international law.
18. Both sides condemned in the strongest terms the continued development of nuclear weapons and missiles by North Korea. They reaffirmed the importance of sustained and comprehensive implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions and strongly urged

North Korea to refrain from any further provocation and to fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. They also strongly urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue immediately.

19. Both sides shared the goal of "a world free of nuclear weapons", and shared the recognition that it is important for nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to cooperate and advance realistic and practical measures toward that goal. On that basis, both sides reaffirmed that they will continue to cooperate through strengthening nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime centered on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).