

JAPAN-UK JOINT VISION STATEMENT

Japan and the UK are global strategic partners, sharing common interests as outward-looking and free-trading island nations with a global reach, committed to the rules-based international system. We share the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Building on our historic ties, we have today committed to elevating our security and prosperity partnership to the next level, focusing on the following areas.

Ensuring International Security

Japan and the UK are each other's closest security partners in Asia and Europe respectively, and security and defence is a cornerstone of our relationship. We strongly oppose any unilateral actions that seek to increase tension or change the status quo by force or coercion. In light of such serious challenges, including the unprecedented threat posed by North Korea, we are committed to elevating our security cooperation to the next level, and to tackling our shared challenges together globally, and particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

That is why today we have issued the "Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation" to enhance our coordinated response to challenges to the rules-based international system, through our increased security and defence cooperation in such areas as joint defence forces exercises, defence equipment and technology, capacity-building of developing countries, cyber security, space, countering terrorism and violent extremism internationally, including aviation security, and combating serious and organised crime, including modern slavery. To support this, Japan and the UK will build on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and, as a priority, work on a framework to improve administrative, policy and legal procedures to facilitate joint operations and exercises.

We will cooperate to ensure the security and success of the Rugby World Cup 2019 and Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, building upon the recent experience of the UK in hosting such major international events.

Enhancing Economic Partnership

Japan and the UK are among the strongest global champions of free trade. It is more important now than ever that we work together to promote rules-based free and fair trade, for the benefit of our own people and economies, and in support of global prosperity.

Building on our strong existing bilateral trade and investment relationship, we have today decided to enhance Ministerial engagement to realise our shared long-term vision to deepen our bilateral prosperity relationship. We have set out how we will achieve this shared ambition in our “Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Prosperity Cooperation”.

We will continue to champion the early signature and entry into force of the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. This will be our immediate priority. As the UK exits the EU, we will work quickly to establish a new economic partnership between Japan and the UK based on the final terms of the EPA.

The UK is clear that it wants a smooth and orderly transition to its new relationship with the EU and our key partners, including Japan.

The UK welcomes the many high value and high profile Japanese investments in the UK, and will work closely with Japanese business and government to build on these investments in future.

Promoting Innovation and Growth

Our vision for a deepened prosperity partnership will also harness our shared strengths in innovation, to deliver world-leading economies and societies that work for all in the 21st Century.

We will drive industrial productivity, lead the world’s digital economy, build on our strategic partnership in the civil nuclear energy area, show the way for clean energy, and promote quality infrastructure with open and fair access for enhanced regional connectivity, as well as pioneer and share new approaches to demographic and health challenges, and ensuring gender equality.

We will also work together to tackle shared global challenges, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted at COP21 in 2015. We are determined to increase collaboration between our world-class research and development institutions.

Japan and the UK are committed to delivering on the above through our elevated security and prosperity partnership.

Tokyo, 31 August, 2017

Mr. Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan

Rt Hon Theresa May
Prime Minister of the UK