

Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership
between Japan and the Republic of Latvia

On the occasion of the meeting between the Prime Minister of Japan, ISHIBA Shigeru, and the President of the Republic of Latvia, Edgars RINKĒVIČS, in Tokyo on 19 May 2025, the two leaders welcomed the announcement of the Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

(Changes in the Strategic Environment and the Need to Strengthen the Japan-Latvia Partnership)

1. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Latvia have a long history of friendship and cooperation as partners sharing values and principles such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. The friendship between the two countries goes back more than 100 years, since the beginning of Latvian statehood. Over these years, Japan and Latvia have built strong diplomatic ties and have engaged in active political dialogue on all levels.
2. Japan and Latvia, as well as the international community, are facing an increasingly challenging security environment with geopolitical tensions and instability on the rise. The two leaders affirmed the growing recognition of the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security, and are united in their recognition for the need to further deepen bilateral relations as a means of strengthening their response to the changing strategic environment. Therefore, Japan and Latvia have upgraded their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership and are working towards the maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order based on the rule of law, including a free and open Indo-Pacific, by strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation on a plethora of issues.
3. The two leaders are committed to strengthening political cooperation between the two countries. In addition to dialogue at the political level, Japan and Latvia will continue regular bilateral consultations between the diplomatic authorities on a wide range of topics, including international peace and security, and will continue to share their assessment of responses to challenges in the international environment.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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 (UNSC) resolutions, 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. The cooperation negatively impacts security both in the Indo-Pacific and in Europe.
7. The two leaders strongly condemned North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, which is in violation of relevant UNSC resolutions. 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 UNSC resolutions. 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 UNSC resolutions. They urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue immediately.
8. The two leaders expressed serious concerns over the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and strongly opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. They affirmed the importance of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. They also emphasized the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as an indispensable element of the security and prosperity for the international community. They encouraged the peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues.
9. 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 resilient, critical infrastructure. They also emphasized the importance of addressing harmful practices such as non-market policies and practices, overproduction resulting from them, and economic coercion. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation in these areas, including through information-sharing and coordinated policy responses. As it was encouraged during the G7 Hiroshima Summit on 20 May 2023, they recognized that transparency, diversification, security, sustainability, trustworthiness, and reliability are essential principles on which to build and strengthen resilient supply-chain networks with like-minded partners who honor international norms and obligations, and are committed to free and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationships, while pursuing actions based on these principles.

(Cooperation in various fields)

10. Acknowledging the importance of defense cooperation in addressing growing threats, the two leaders expressed their intent to develop stronger ties between respective defense institutions.
11. The two leaders shared the view that regular consultations between their ministries of defense, the sharing of information and practical defense cooperation in areas of

policy, personnel exchanges, hybrid and cyber threats, military education and training will strengthen national capabilities and coordination during crises.

12. In this regard, the two leaders shared their views on the need to promote further Japan-NATO cooperation. In support of these efforts, both countries will strive to make use of the opportunities for collaboration provided by the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence in Latvia.
13. The two leaders highlighted the need to strengthen Japan-Latvia 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, the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement, the Three Seas Initiative, and others. They affirmed the importance of maintaining and strengthening a free, fair, and rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO [World Trade Organization] at its core, and concurred to work together on WTO reform to improve all its functions.
14. In the fields of science, technology, research, and innovation, the two countries will deepen scientific and technological cooperation by exchanging knowledge and experience, and by pursuing joint research activities in areas such as life sciences.
15. Japan and Latvia share a rich history of diverse and dynamic people-to-people exchanges, spanning culture, sports, tourism, and education. 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 Agreement.
16. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Latvia would cooperate in the international arena, including through the United Nations. Japan and Latvia intend to deepen cooperation in strengthening the functions of the UN, which includes the pursuit of urgent reform of the Security Council.
17. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate cooperation in international disaster risk reduction in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. They emphasized the critical role of a disaster preparedness approach and the need for investment in people, goods, and infrastructure for disaster risk reduction.
18. The two leaders will cooperate in strengthening the development of advanced and emerging technologies, including in the cyber, AI, and space domains, and other areas within the scope of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership.
19. 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.
20. The two leaders will cooperate in addressing global food and energy security.
21. 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.

22. 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.