

**Keynote Speech**  
**by Parliamentary Vice-Minister ERI Arfiya**  
**at the 4<sup>th</sup> EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum**  
**in Brussels on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025**

High Representative Kallas, Distinguished Guests,

It is a great honor to have this opportunity to deliver a keynote speech at this timely and important conference. I express my sincere gratitude to High Representative Kallas and the European External Action Service for their generous hospitality in hosting this conference.

Chairperson,

Today, the free, open, and stable international order that we have long cherished is facing profound challenges due to historical shifts in the balance of power and the intensifying geopolitical competition.

In addition, the rise of emerging and developing countries, the worsening of global challenges, and the emergence of new issues arising from advancement of science and technology are all intricately intertwined.

Under such circumstances, some argue that there is a lack of universally acceptable views on the nature of the international order, and that consensus is lacking on what the fundamental principles of the next era should be.

However, I think, and we think in Japan, that the answer to these concerns is clear. For example, in Japan's neighborhood in the Indo-Pacific, the assertive military activities of China, North Korea, and Russia raise serious concerns. In Europe, Russia continues its aggression against Ukraine, an outrageous act that shakes the international order.

Moreover, in the international community, there are concerning developments where certain countries weaponize their monopolistic or oligopolistic control over critical mineral supply chains to exert pressure on us and impose their own principles and claims.

Such unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion are unacceptable anywhere on Earth, be it in Europe, be it in Indo-Pacific, or elsewhere. Furthermore, as it has become clear that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and that of the Indo-Pacific is inseparable and that the economic security of a country can be severely affected by developments far beyond its borders today, what we must collectively seek is a commitment to restore, maintain, and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

Chairperson,

Against this backdrop, a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP), which Japan proposed in 2016, will mark its 10th anniversary next year.

FOIP, centered on principles that resonate widely in the international community, such as "freedom," "openness," "diversity," "inclusivity," and respect for the "rule of law," is, I believe, increasingly relevant today from the perspective of promoting international cooperation. Japan will continue to actively promote FOIP as a cornerstone of its foreign policy and continue to adapt it to contemporary challenges as well.

Under FOIP, Japan will work to build an international environment where the strong do not oppress the weak, in cooperation with like-minded countries that share fundamental values.

We will expand cooperation in providing international public goods, including areas such as climate and environment, the high seas, outer space, and cyberspace, and contribute to overcoming vulnerabilities in the region through enhanced connectivity.

To further advance FOIP, we intend to strengthen cooperation with partners including Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, ASEAN, South Asia, and Pacific Island countries. In this

regard, we welcome Europe's growing interest and further engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

I would like to conclude by expressing my hope that today's meeting will further deepen Europe - Indo-Pacific relations and contribute to peace and prosperity in both regions. I thank you.