

Preface to the Diplomatic Bluebook 2026

The world is facing a historic period of great transformation, marked by the intensification of geopolitical competition, the instability of the international order, the rise of the Global South, and the accelerating pace of technological innovation, including artificial intelligence (AI). The security environment surrounding Japan has become as severe and complex as it has ever been since the end of World War II, and the international environment surrounding Japanese diplomacy has grown unprecedentedly challenging. At the same time, even amid these circumstances, I recognize that the expectations of the international community toward Japan are greater than ever before.

In order to protect our national interests and to meet the expectations of the international community, Japan intends to develop a “diplomacy that has inclusiveness and strength leading multifaceted and multi-layered cooperation” that is responsive to changes in the international situation.

Specifically, Japan will uphold and clearly assert principles such as the rule of law, freedom, democracy, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, thereby contributing to the maintenance and strengthening of the international order. Japan will also lead the coordination among like-minded countries such as Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad), as well as multilateral frameworks such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in the area of trade. Through these efforts, Japan will advance a distinctively Japanese diplomacy that enhances its presence in the international community.

In addition to taking a broad and comprehensive view of developments across all regions, Japan is determined to squarely address the widening scope of diplomatic engagement — including economic security, energy and food security, the climate change issue, and global health — and to lead international cooperation in each of these areas.

To this end, Japan will first further deepen the Japan-U.S. Alliance and further strengthen its deterrence and response capabilities. Furthermore, Japan will leverage the various frameworks it has built to date to strengthen the network of cooperation with like-minded countries.

The year 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of Japan’s advocacy of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).” Over this period, the international landscape has changed dramatically — with the growing importance of economic security, the multiplication of complex challenges to economic growth, and the increasingly prominent challenges to the existing international order. Taking these developments into account, Japan will continue to uphold FOIP as a pillar of its diplomacy and will strategically update it in line with the changes of the times. Toward its realization, Japan will also cooperate closely and attentively with developing and emerging countries, known as the Global South.

Furthermore, while promoting multifaceted economic diplomacy, Japan will also strengthen its efforts in the area of economic security, including enhancing supply chain resilience for critical minerals.

This Diplomatic Bluebook presents a wide range of Japan’s diplomatic efforts based on these perspectives. I hope that this Diplomatic Bluebook will serve as a valuable source for readers both at home and abroad in deepening their understanding of Japanese diplomacy.

Minister for Foreign Affairs
MOTEGI Toshimitsu



In principle, Diplomatic Bluebook 2026 describes an overview of the international affairs and Japan's diplomatic activities from January 1 to December 31 of 2025; however, some important events that occurred until early 2026 are also included.

Chapters 1 to 4 offer overviews of Japan's diplomatic activities throughout 2025 in a concise and easy-to-understand manner, and also include special features delving into specific foreign policy themes and column articles, including contributions from people with global experiences.

This year's and past years' Diplomatic Bluebooks are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Summaries of Diplomatic Bluebook 2026 in French and Spanish are also due to be available on the website by autumn 2026.

For more details with respect to Chapter 3, Section 2, "Japan's International Cooperation," please refer to MOFA's publication, *White Paper on Development Cooperation - Japan's International Cooperation*. It is also available on the MOFA website.

Please note that the titles of persons and names of countries appearing in this book are those as of the time of the events. Website links and 2D codes in this book are those as of publication and may be changed or deleted later. The contents and views expressed in contributions from individuals and organizations do not reflect the position of MOFA. The maps in this book are simplified and may not necessarily be drawn to scale or accurately reflect other details such as borderlines.

Previous Diplomatic Bluebooks:

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/index.html>



White Paper on Development Cooperation - Japan's International Cooperation:

https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000017.html

