

Chapter 1

Overview of the International Situation and Outlook for Japan's Diplomacy

In order for Japan to ensure its national interests in the diplomatic, security and economic domains, to prevent crises, and to secure the safety and prosperity of the lives of its citizens, including Japanese nationals living abroad, it is necessary to maintain and develop an international order based on values and principles such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as to proactively create a peaceful and stable international environment, through close cooperation

with a wide range of partners. To this end, Japan needs to advance its foreign policy strategically, proactively, and multifacetedly, while grasping changes and trends in international affairs with a clear view and adapting to changes.

This chapter outlines a broad overview of the international situation surrounding Japan and the outlook for Japan's diplomacy.

1 Overview of the International Situation

The year 2025, marking 80 years since the end of World War II and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN), can be considered a milestone for the international community.

In the post-Cold War era, international trends characterized by the expansion of the free and open international order, the advancement of globalization, and the deepening of interdependence among nations brought prosperity and stability to many countries.

However, the free and open international order is greatly shaken. The world is facing a historic period of great transformation, driven by the shift in the power balance and intensified geopolitical competition. Amidst this, the security environment surrounding Japan is now as severe, complex, and tense as it has ever been since the end of World War II. The relatively stable era once known as the “post-Cold War era” can be said to have already ended.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which began in February 2022, is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundations of the international order and constitutes a grave violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, in

the Middle East, the entire region has become unstable after the terror attacks against Israel by Hamas and others in October 2023. In particular, the deepening complexity of the international community's confrontational structure over the situation surrounding Gaza, as well as the escalation of tensions surrounding Iran, have become a challenge for the entire international community transcending regional borders.

At the same time, changes in the security environment surrounding Japan and the international community are accelerating in various fields. In the vicinity of Japan, concerning developments are observed, such as China's diplomatic posture and military activities, North Korea's nuclear and missile development, and the advancement of the military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. These individual phenomena are interconnected in the global international community and are bringing about diverse changes in regional and international affairs.

Furthermore, the rise of developing and emerging countries, known as the Global South, is challenging the maintenance of the existing international order and global governance⁽¹⁾ system. The voices and influence

(1) Global Governance: Efforts to provide predictability, stability, and order in dealing with interstate issues (the totality of institutions, policies, norms, procedures, and initiatives) in the international community, which lacks a higher level of governing bodies, unlike the domestic system.

of Global South countries are rapidly growing in international politics, backed by their economic growth and population expansion. Many of these countries are increasingly vocal in pointing out the limitations of the existing international order and international organizations, and in calling for reforms toward a more equitable and inclusive system. Against the backdrop of such dissatisfaction, some countries are trying to reshape the international order for their own convenience, while acting as if they were defenders of the international order based on their own narratives.

In recent years, as various challenges have emerged in areas spanning national security and the economy, the importance of economic security, including strengthening supply chain resilience, has been increasing. Furthermore, the advancement of science and technology in modern society is unprecedented in its speed and scope of impact. Innovations in cutting-edge fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum technology are advancing at an accelerating pace, and their importance is increasing as a major factor that can even influence national power. In addition, with the advancement of digital technology, threats in cyberspace, including state-sponsored cyberattacks, are rapidly increasing, making the enhancement of capabilities in the field of cybersecurity an urgent task. Under these circumstances, competition among nations over “technological hegemony” is intensifying, ushering in an era where the development of next-generation technologies is directly linked to national security of each country, while also exerting a significant impact on future national power and the medium- to long-term international order.

With the above recognition, the following part explains the major issues facing the international community.

(1) Responding to Challenge to the Free and Open International Order based on the Rule of Law

In various regions around the world, the shift in the power balance and geopolitical competition have intensified. As these factors interlink, the free and open international order based on the rule of law has begun to waver significantly.

Russia has been continuing its aggression against Ukraine since February 2022. This act, in which a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) blatantly violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, such as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the general prohibition of the use of force, poses a challenge to the international order based on the rule of law. The achievement of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine is essential from the perspective of upholding the rule of law in the international community. In addition, in the Middle East, the fighting between Israel and Hamas has intensified since October 2023, causing a serious humanitarian crisis and becoming a challenge for the entire international community transcending regional borders.

In this situation, the United States (U.S.) has been actively engaging in diplomacy toward achieving peace in Ukraine and resolving conflicts around the world, and Japan is supporting these diplomatic efforts of the U.S. The role of the U.S. remains indispensable for maintaining and strengthening peace and stability in the international community.

The security of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions is inseparable, and responding to Russia's aggression against Ukraine is important from the perspective of preventing unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in East Asia as well. The security environment surrounding Japan is as severe and complex as it has ever been since the end of World War II. The military activities of China, North Korea, and Russia have become matters of serious concern, particularly China's unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, the growing tensions over the Taiwan Strait, North Korea's continuing nuclear and missile development, the advancement of the military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, and the strengthening of military cooperation between China and Russia.

Under these circumstances, the importance of further strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, which is the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policy and the foundation of the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific, is increasing even more. Furthermore, it is essential that the U.S. maintain and strengthen its commitment to

the Indo-Pacific region. At the same time, it is extremely important to strengthen cooperation with like-minded countries that value the maintenance and development of the free and open international order, by leveraging multifaceted cooperation frameworks. It is important to strengthen multilayered cooperation with like-minded countries, including the G7 (Group of Seven), Australia, India, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Southeast Asian countries, and the Pacific Island countries, by utilizing frameworks, such as Japan-U.S.-ROK, Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-Philippines, and Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad). Furthermore, from the perspective that the security of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions is inseparable, it is also important to deepen cooperation with a wide range of partners, including the European Union (EU), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Through these efforts, Japan will strongly promote a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” which upholds the core principles of defending “freedom” and “the rule of law” and respecting “diversity,” “inclusiveness,” and “openness,” and will strategically update it to align with the times.

At the same time, it is important to build stable relations with neighboring countries, while directly addressing difficult issues and challenges. Regarding Japan-China relations, the overarching direction of comprehensively promoting a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests” and building “constructive and stable Japan-China relations” has been consistent. Precisely because there are various pending issues and challenges, it is all the more important for Japan and China to communicate with each other. Japan intends to continue responding calmly and appropriately going forward.

(2) Global Governance Reform and Moves toward Resolving Global Issues

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN, providing a timely opportunity to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism and re-evaluate the nature of international cooperation. Many global issues remain today, such as climate change, the environment, global health, and disasters, and these issues cannot be solved by any one country alone, making international cooperation even more necessary.

For 80 years since the end of World War II, Japan has promoted multilateral diplomacy with the UN at its core and has consistently contributed to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community. However, the reality is that the existing international organizations and fora, including the UN Security Council, have not adequately fulfilled their expected roles in the face of current issues. To adapt to the changes of the times and perform more effectively, urgent reforms are needed in the structure and functions of these organizations.

Strengthening networks with a wide range of like-minded countries and steadily promoting cooperation will also contribute to strengthening global governance. By deepening international cooperation based on shared values, it becomes possible to respond more effectively to the complex crises facing the international community. Furthermore, while the multilateral systems centered on the UN face difficulties, it can be said that cooperation among allies and like-minded countries is becoming increasingly important.

In response to the shift in the power balance of the international community, Global South countries are increasing their voice and influence in the international community. There are also moves where some countries are trying to spread their own narratives about the international order, while acting as if they were defenders of the international order. Although Global South countries are dissatisfied with the existing systems and rules, it is essential for them to jointly play a commensurate role and share the burden in order to strengthen global governance.

“BRICs,” which was originally formalized by four countries — Brazil, Russia, India, and China — later became “BRICS” with the inclusion of South Africa. As of 2025, there are signs of expanding membership, with ten countries having officially joined. While such trends are observed among Global South countries, their interests, intentions, political systems, economic situations, and needs vary. In the current international community, there is an increasing need to develop a fine-tuned diplomacy while listening to the individual voices of Global South countries.

(3) Responding to Impacts of Intensifying International Competition and Development of Science and Technology

In the modern international community, the intensification of international competition and the rapid development of science and technology are having significant impacts on relations between nations and on security.

In recent years, the vulnerabilities of food and energy supply chains have been revealed due to COVID-19 and Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In addition, the international competition for critical minerals and advanced technologies continues to intensify, and the world is entering an era in which economic superiority directly translates into security superiority. This expands the scope of security beyond traditional military and diplomatic domains to include a wide range of fields such as the economy, technology, and social life. To cope with this change, responding to economic security challenges, including enhancing supply chain resilience, has become an urgent issue.

Establishing governance for emerging technologies is also an urgent task. While the evolution of emerging technologies, including AI, and cyberspace brings significant benefits to society, their misuse poses serious risks and has become a severe risk factor that threatens the stability of nations and society. The emergence of "new ways of warfare," including the mass use of drones in the Ukraine conflict, symbolizes the significant impact that innovation has on the military domain. Furthermore, amidst intensifying geopolitical competition, international information warfare in the cognitive domain through information manipulation, including

the spread of disinformation, is constantly occurring, and addressing this challenge has become increasingly critical. To minimize the risks posed by these innovations and maximize their benefits, ensuring appropriate governance across the international community is indispensable. Therefore, establishing ethical norms in the development and use of technology, formulating norms in cyberspace, and fostering international cooperation on measures to counter disinformation are urgent issues that need to be addressed.

Nationalism and protectionist trends, as well as a series of tariff measures, are also observed.

There are instances where countries leverage their economic influence to put pressure on other countries based on economic dependencies, their own large markets, and their natural resources. Non-market policies and practices are also observed. For example, cases such as export restrictions on critical minerals indicate that excessive reliance on specific countries that do not adhere to international rules and norms poses a significant risk to economic security.

To respond to this series of developments, it is essential not only to strive for international rule-making efforts and the maintenance and strengthening of a free and fair international economic order, but also to promote initiatives such as enhancing supply chain resilience, including those related to critical minerals. However, these issues are difficult for one country alone to address, and it is becoming increasingly necessary to cooperate with allies, like-minded countries, and Global South countries.

2 Outlook for Japan's Diplomacy

The security environment surrounding the international community and Japan has been changing rapidly across various fields. Concerning developments continue, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the unstable situation in the Middle East, China's diplomatic posture and military activities around Japan, North Korea's nuclear and missile development, and the advancement of the military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. Meanwhile, the Global South is enhancing its presence, and the international

community is diversifying. In addition, some countries are experiencing increasing domestic divisions and political tensions. Multilateralism with the UN as its core faces difficulties, but there are a host of global issues including climate change, new threats such as cyberattacks and information manipulation, including the spread of disinformation, and economic security issues, which need to be addressed by the international community as a whole, thus calling for cooperation among nations more than ever before.

With the international situation remaining severe, Japan must ensure the peace, security, and prosperity of its own country and people, proactively create a peaceful and stable international environment by maintaining and strengthening the international order based on values and principles such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Japan has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation since the end of World War II, contributing to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community including the Asia-Pacific region, and working to maintain and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law. It has also developed a fine-tuned diplomacy with all countries, respecting the diversity of each country, discussing common issues from the same perspective, and providing support that is truly needed by the other party. Furthermore, Japan, as a flag-bearer of free trade, has maintained and reinforced the rules-based, free, and fair international economic order under a multilateral trading system. At the same time, Japan has cooperated with developing countries based on the concept of human security⁽²⁾ and worked toward the resolution of global issues, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through Official Development Assistance (ODA) for infrastructure development, capacity building support, and other measures. It has also actively contributed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and international peacebuilding efforts. As the world is facing a historic period of great transformation, based on the trust gained through these diplomatic efforts, Japan will protect its national interests and develop a “diplomacy that has inclusiveness and strength leading multifaceted and multilayered cooperation” that is responsive to changes in the international community, by proactively fulfilling the roles and responsibilities expected of Japan by the international community across various fields in order to promote the “‘Responsible Japanese Diplomacy’ Creating Peace and Prosperity” advocated by the Takaichi Cabinet.

(1) Maintain the Free and Open International Order based on the Rule of Law

A Strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance

The Japan-U.S. Alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policy, and the foundation of the peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

On the security front, Japan and the U.S. will promote broad security cooperation, further strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and optimize the response capabilities of U.S. forces in Japan. Japan will also promote efforts to mitigate impact on local communities, including Okinawa, through efforts to expeditiously relocate the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma to Henoko while maintaining the stable presence of U.S. forces.

On the economic front, Japan and the U.S. will continue to expand and deepen broad Japan-U.S. collaboration in the economic field, achieving growth and strengthening economic security for both countries through the steady implementation of the agreement on tariffs between Japan and the U.S. The two countries will also further strengthen their multilayered people-to-people exchanges.

Through these efforts, Japan will strive to build a strong relationship of trust with the Trump administration and further deepen Japan-U.S. relations. At the same time, Japan will continue to coordinate closely with the U.S. at all levels, including between leaders and foreign ministers.

B Cooperation with Allies and Like-minded Countries

As a pillar of Japan's diplomacy, Japan will strategically update the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” which upholds the core principles of defending “freedom” and “the rule of law” and respecting “diversity,” “inclusiveness,” and “openness,” adapting it to the changes of the times. In order to realize FOIP, it is important to build and expand networks with like-minded countries, in addition to strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance. To this end, Japan will continue to further strengthen cooperation with the G7, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, India, the Pacific Island

⁽²⁾ Human security is a concept that pursues freedom from fear and want, and the right of individuals to live happily and in dignity through their protection and empowerment.

countries, the EU, NATO, and others, and expand practical and multifaceted cooperation such as among Japan-U.S.-ROK, Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-Philippines, and Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad).

The G7 is working closely to address the various issues facing the international community, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East. As the security in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific becomes increasingly intertwined, Japan will contribute to further strengthening of cooperation of the G7 in order to maintain and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law.

With Australia, as a central pillar of the coordination among like-minded countries, Japan has established a close cooperative relationship in a wide range of fields. The two countries will work to further deepen their "Special Strategic Partnership," including by strengthening security cooperation, in fields such as defense equipment, economic security and cyber.

With the EU and NATO, Japan will further strengthen security cooperation based on the recognition that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is inseparable and in light of the progress made in cooperation in recent years.

Japan will promote cooperation among like-minded countries such as Japan-U.S.-ROK, Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-Philippines, and Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad), and continue to strengthen such multilayered cooperation in the future.

C Japan's Own Efforts

As the security environment surrounding the international community and Japan becomes increasingly severe, Japan is working to review the National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy, and Defense Buildup Program. In addition, Japan will promote defense equipment and technology transfers, Official Security Assistance (OSA), and cybersecurity, and work to strengthen its intelligence capabilities in close coordination with relevant ministries and agencies.

Japan will promote the rule of law in the international community and also work on international cooperation in countering terrorism and violent extremism, as well as combating transnational organized crime, including cybercrime.

Furthermore, Japan will strengthen its information security infrastructure. Concurrently, to counter foreign information manipulation, including the spread of disinformation, Japan will advance its measures to counter information warfare, including by strengthening its capabilities to collect and analyze information, and strategic external communications. Japan will also work toward a fundamental strengthening of its cultural diplomacy, including people-to-people exchanges, to foster an environment where Japan's communications are received positively.

(2) Relations with Neighboring Countries and Others

Japan will build stable relations with neighboring countries, while directly addressing difficult issues and challenges.

A Japan-China Relations

Between Japan and China, there are a number of challenges and concerns, such as unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East China Sea, including the situation surrounding the Senkaku Islands, and the South China Sea, and a series of military activities around Japan. Peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are also important. Japan is also seriously concerned about the human rights situation in China and the situation in Hong Kong.

At the same time, both Japan and China share significant responsibility for the peace and prosperity of the region and the world. Japan's policy of comprehensively promoting a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests" and building a "constructive and stable Japan-China relations" with China remains consistent. Precisely because there are pending issues and challenges, it is all the more important for Japan and China to communicate with each other. Japan remains open to various dialogues with China. Under this stance, Japan intends to continue communicating with China and to respond calmly and appropriately going forward from the perspective of national interests.

B Japan-Republic of Korea (ROK) Relations

Japan and the ROK are important neighbors which should work as partners on various challenges in the

international community. In light of the current strategic environment, the importance of Japan-ROK relations has grown even more. Japan and the ROK will develop Japan-ROK relations in a future-oriented and stable manner, based on the foundation of the Japan-ROK relations which has been established since the normalization of Japan-ROK relations. Furthermore, Japan continues working closely together bilaterally with the ROK and trilaterally with the U.S. and the ROK, including on policies toward North Korea.

Takeshima is an inherent territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based on international law. Japan will deal with the issue in a resolute manner based on this consistent position.

C Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Cooperation

Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Cooperation is also important not only for peace and prosperity of the region, but of the world, from a broad perspective. As the chair country of the Japan-China-ROK Summit, Japan will continue to coordinate the holding of the Summit in Japan at an appropriate time.

D North Korea

North Korea's nuclear and missile development is totally unacceptable. Japan is also seriously concerned about the advancement of the military cooperation between Russia and North Korea such as the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia and Russia's procurement and use of weapons and munitions including ballistic missiles from North Korea, given their impact not only on the situation in Ukraine but also on the security of the region surrounding Japan. Japan will advance efforts toward the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and seek the complete dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs in cooperation with the international community, including the U.S. and the ROK.

Japan's basic policy remains unchanged: Japan will achieve the normalization of relations with North Korea, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, by comprehensively resolving outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, as well as settlement of the unfortunate past.

In particular, with the aging of the abductees and their families, the abductions issue is a humanitarian matter with lives at stake, which must be resolved immediately, as well as a matter of infringement of the sovereignty of Japan. Japan will spare no effort and utilize all available means in order to realize the return of all abductees at the earliest possible date and resolve the outstanding issues of concern between Japan and North Korea.

(3) Response to Russia's Aggression against Ukraine and Japan-Russia Relations

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundations of the international order. Japan welcomes the united diplomatic efforts toward peace by the U.S. and European nations. It is important to end Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and achieve a just and lasting peace as soon as possible. To that end, Japan will work in close cooperation with the G7 and other countries to continue its support for Ukraine and sanctions against Russia.

While Japan-Russia relations continue to face a difficult situation, regarding the Northern Territories issue, which is the greatest concern between Japan and Russia, Japan's policy is to resolve the issue of the attribution of the Four Northern Islands and conclude a peace treaty. In addition, there are numerous pending issues between Japan and Russia that must be resolved as neighboring countries, and it is necessary to communicate appropriately with the Russian side. Regarding the resumption of the Four-Island Exchange and Visit Program, which is one of its top priorities, taking into account the earnest wishes of the elderly former residents of the islands, Japan will persistently urge the Russian side to resume these initiatives, with a particular focus on visits to graves in the Northern Territories.

(4) Economic Diplomacy

To enhance Japan's economic power, Japan will provide diplomatic support for Japan's superior technological and problem-solving capabilities, as well as for Japanese companies' overseas business expansion, thereby contributing to the creation of new markets and innovation.

It is also important to maintain and reinforce the rules-based, free, and fair international economic

order. Japan will work toward promoting economic partnerships, including maintaining the high standards of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and its strategic expansion, promoting the reform of World Trade Organization (WTO), and establishing a “safe, secure, and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI)” ecosystem. At the same time, to address the increasingly critical challenges of economic security, Japan will make full efforts not only to ensure the stable supply of energy and food, but also to enhance supply chain resilience for critical minerals among others, counter economic coercion, and protect and promote critical and emerging technologies.

Japan will promote initiatives to ensure the success of the International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama, Japan (GREEN×EXPO 2027).

(5) Strengthening Cooperation with the Global South and Regional Diplomacy Issues

Close cooperation with Global South countries, which are gaining increasing influence in the international community, is essential. By delivering security cooperation through OSA and “visible Japanese development cooperation” through ODA, Japan will continue tailored cooperation that meets the needs of partner countries. Furthermore, Japan will strategically and effectively use ODA to address critical issues such as economic security and promote private investment catalyzed by ODA.

ASEAN, located at the center of the Indo-Pacific, is the growth center of the world and the key to the realization of FOIP. Its stability and prosperity are of vital importance to Japan and the entire region, and Japan has been working to strengthen its relationship with ASEAN, which is enhancing its presence both politically and economically, as one of its top diplomatic priorities. As “Trusted Partners” with “heart to heart” connections, Japan will deepen cooperation with Southeast Asian countries and further strengthen its relationship with the region in a wide range of fields, such as maritime security, digital (including AI), Green Transformation (GX), connectivity, and human resource development, utilizing OSA and ODA.

India is an important partner in realizing FOIP, which shares fundamental values and strategic interests.

Japan and India, both democratic countries in Asia, share a great responsibility for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and the world. In order to build a mutually complementary relationship that co-creates the socio-economic values needed to resolve the challenges that future generations will face, both countries will further deepen cooperation in a wide range of fields, including security, economy, investment and innovation, people-to-people exchanges, etc., under the “Special Strategic and Global Partnership.”

Southwest Asia, including India, is a strategically important region located along the sea lanes linking Japan with the Middle East and Africa. With a population of over 1.9 billion, including a large young population, and high rate of economic growth, it is an attractive market and production base for Japanese companies. The countries in Southwest Asia and Japan have longstanding friendly ties, and over the years, Japan has deepened its engagement in a wide range of areas. Building on this foundation, Japan will further deepen its relations with the countries in Southwest Asia, which are important partners.

The Pacific Island countries, which have deep historical ties with Japan, constitute a critical region from the perspective of cooperation in the international arena and realizing FOIP. Based on the outcome of the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) held in 2024, Japan will continue to strongly support the development of the Pacific Island countries and their unity, respecting the needs of each country.

The Middle East is one of the major sources of energy supply for the international community, and Japan depends on the region for about 90% of its crude oil imports. Therefore, peace and stability in the region, including the safety of navigation on the sea lanes, are extremely important for energy security as well as the stability and growth of the global economy including Japan. Regarding the issue of Israel and Palestine, which significantly impacts peace and stability in the Middle East, Japan will continue to play an active role in promoting prompt humanitarian assistance and early recovery and reconstruction in Gaza, and in realizing a “two-state solution.”

In addition, regarding the situation surrounding Iran, Japan has swiftly been taking various measures following attacks by the U.S. and Israel against Iran on

February 28, 2026, and the subsequent exchanges of attacks between the U.S. and Israel and Iran. Japan is working closely with relevant countries to gather information, and is taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals across the region including in the countries neighboring Iran, as well as working to grasp the situation of maritime and air traffic and to share information to relevant parties. Furthermore, from Japan's consistent stance that Iran's development of nuclear weapons must never be allowed, Japan externally communicated that it strongly urges Iran to stop its development of nuclear weapons and actions that destabilize the region, including attacks on neighboring countries, and to seek a diplomatic solution. This position was clearly stated in the Statement by the Foreign Minister on March 1. Moreover, as Iran's attacks have extended to civilian and diplomatic facilities, including energy facilities in neighboring countries, resulting in civilian casualties, and as Iran has mentioned the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, with civilian vessels actually being attacked in the Strait and its surrounding waters, Japan has condemned such actions by Iran. Based on Japan's stance that the early de-escalation of the situation is of utmost importance, Foreign Minister Motegi, immediately after the outbreak of the incident, participated in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Telephone Calls, and held meetings with relevant countries in the region, including the Gulf countries, as well as telephone calls with the parties involved, including Israel and Iran, to directly convey Japan's stance and to request cooperation for ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals.

The peace and stability of the Middle East, including energy security, and maintaining the international non-proliferation regime are of utmost importance to Japan. Japan will continue to make all necessary diplomatic efforts, in coordination with the international community, to bring about an early de-escalation of the situation.

Africa, which is projected to account for a quarter of the world's population by 2050 and is endowed with abundant natural resources, is a young and hopeful continent with significant potential for dynamic growth. Furthermore, strengthening cooperation with African countries, which forms a key block of the Global South, not only advances Japan's national interests, including economic development, but is

also increasingly important to guiding the international community from division toward cooperation. For over 30 years since the launch of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993, Japan has consistently advanced cooperation based on the spirit of supporting African-led development. At the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9), held in August under the theme of "Co-creating innovative solutions with Africa," discussions focused on creating solutions that lead to prosperity for both Japan and Africa by leveraging Japan's technologies and expertise. Japan will continue to strengthen its relations with Africa, including through the materialization of the "Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa" announced at TICAD 9.

Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) countries, many of which share values and principles with Japan, are important partners in countering the challenges to the current international order. Furthermore, LAC is an important region for Japan's economic security, producing critical minerals and food resources, and the Nikkei (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) communities, numbering approximately 3.1 million in this region, are the foundation of the friendship and trust. Japan will continue to promote cooperation with LAC countries through the "Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean," under the policy of recognizing the diversity of LAC and tackling common challenges through dialogue.

The countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus, while having close historical and economic ties with Russia, have been affected in various aspects by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Japan will promote cooperation as a partner in maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law, while utilizing frameworks such as the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue (CA+JAD), the Summit of which was held for the first time in December.

(6) Promotion of Multilateral Diplomacy

The year 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's admission to the UN. To address the challenges facing the world, Japan will promote multilateral diplomacy with the UN at its core and work to strengthen UN functions, including reform of the UN Security

Council. In addition, Japan will continue to promote human rights diplomacy in its own way and diplomacy centered on the participation of women by actively advancing Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

With regard to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, toward realizing a world without nuclear weapons, Japan will advance realistic and practical efforts to maintain and strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime, including through the NPT Review Conference in April 2026.

Regarding the safety of the discharge of ALPS treated water⁽³⁾ into the sea, Japan will continue to maintain close coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), provide detailed explanation both domestically and internationally, based on scientific evidence in a highly transparent manner.

(7) Resolving Global Issues

On global issues such as climate change, global health, and disaster risk reduction, Japan will advance its efforts to achieve the SDGs based on the concept of human security and lead international discussions

with an eye toward the period beyond 2030. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) will support activities of Japanese nationals who work in international organizations.

(8) Fundamentally Enhancing the Diplomatic and Consular Implementation Structure

Amidst an international situation that remains more severe than ever before, Japan will continue to fundamentally enhance the diplomatic and consular implementation structure to achieve even greater results through these diplomatic efforts. In particular, MOFA will promote the strengthening of the systems and infrastructure at MOFA headquarters and diplomatic missions overseas to ensure full preparedness for responding to crises, the protection of Japanese nationals, and the bolstering of information security, among others, while also advancing proactive diplomacy. Furthermore, MOFA will work to reduce passport fees. MOFA will advance initiatives toward realizing a society of well-ordered and harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

⁽³⁾ ALPS treated water is water that contained radioactive substances from inside the buildings of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) and has been purified and treated through multiple treatment facilities, including ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System), until the concentrations of all radioactive substances besides tritium satisfy the safety regulatory standards. As for tritium, the water is significantly diluted with seawater before the discharge into the sea so that it fully satisfies safety regulatory standards.

