

Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

On the occasion of the meeting between Prime Minister of Japan, KISHIDA Fumio, and Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Ingrida ŠIMONYTĖ, in Tokyo on 26 October, 2022, the two leaders welcomed the announcement of the Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

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

1. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Lithuania have a long history of friendship and cooperation as partners sharing fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, rule of law, and human rights.
2. Japan and Lithuania, and the international community are facing a difficult international situation, a crossroad in history. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrage that shakes the very foundation of the international community and fundamentally overturn the security environment in Europe. In the Indo-Pacific region, where the balance of power is rapidly shifting, and the expansion of military power without transparency and unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force are continuing and being strengthened.
3. In the face of information and technology theft through cyberspace, pursuit of national interests through economic coercion, expansion of influence through opaque and unfair development finance, the norms and principles such as the rule of law and the improvement of resilience of each country's institutional governance which has supported the international community's prosperity to date are required.
4. They affirmed that with the growing recognition of the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security, Japan and Lithuania shared the necessity of further strengthening bilateral relations in order to respond to the changing strategic environment. As this year marks the 100th anniversary of our friendship, Japan and Lithuania upgrade our bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership and work toward the realization of a free and open international order based on the rule of law, by strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation on a broad range of matters, including the following.

(Cooperation in the areas of politics, diplomacy, and security, and collaboration for the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific)

5. The two leaders affirmed that to strengthen political cooperation between the two countries, in addition to dialogue at the political level, the two countries will continue regular bilateral political consultations between the diplomatic authorities on international peace and security, and will continually share their assessment on the international situation and responses to challenges in the international

community. In the light of drastic changes to the security environment in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, the Japan-Lithuania security policy dialogue will be newly launched with the participation of the diplomatic and defense authorities, with the aim of further reinforcing the bilateral relations through sharing knowledge of the security issues.

6. The two leaders condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine as a grave violation of international law, in particular the UN Charter. The two leaders further condemned Russia's escalatory steps, including irresponsible nuclear rhetoric. The two leaders expressed solidarity with Ukraine and reaffirmed their support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two leaders condemned Russia's reckless threat to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine as a serious and unacceptable menace to the peace and security of the international community, and stressed that any use of nuclear weapons would meet with unequivocal international community opprobrium and resolute responses.
7. The two leaders demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine and expressed their intention to continue to impose severe sanctions on Russia, including economic and financial sanctions. The two leaders called on all countries to refrain from giving Russia any assistance to support the continuation of its aggression. The two leaders would also work together to ensure transparent and fair provision of assistance to Ukraine, including with regard to reconstruction.
8. The two leaders would cooperate in addressing global food and energy security issues.
9. The two leaders would strengthen cooperation to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.
10. Recognizing the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security, and the importance of strengthening NATO's engagement in the Indo-Pacific in order to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific, the two leaders shared the view that it is necessary to further promote Japan-NATO cooperation.
11. Acknowledging the importance of defense cooperation to tackle growing threats, the two leaders expressed their intent to develop stronger ties between respective defense institutions. The two leaders shared the view that regular consultations between ministries of defense, sharing of information and practical defense cooperation in areas of defense policy, hybrid threats, military education and training would help to strengthen national capabilities and coordinate their actions during crisis situations.
12. The two leaders expressed serious concern over the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea, and strongly oppose any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force. The two leaders also emphasized the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as an indispensable element in security and prosperity in the international community. They encouraged the peaceful resolution of cross-strait

issues.

13. The two leaders shared the recognition of the importance of economic security, including the stable supply of strategic goods and the strengthening of supply chains, and strongly opposed economic coercion.
14. The two leaders strongly condemn North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles including the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launches, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). The two leaders affirm their commitment to fully implementing the relevant UNSCRs and remain committed themselves to the realization of the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and all ballistic missiles in accordance with the relevant UNSCRs. The two leaders emphasize the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

(Cooperation in various fields)

15. The two leaders emphasized the importance of promoting the Japan-EU EPA as well as maintaining and strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and concurred to cooperate on the WTO reform.
16. The two leaders would mutually cooperate in infrastructure development, including connectivity and cyber security, and will make good use of facilities already available in Lithuania, as appropriate.
17. They would pursue the possibility of strengthening involvement in the Three Seas Initiative including in the areas of energy, transportation and promote trade, investment and manufacturing.
18. The two leaders will strengthen regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, with particular focus on the Eastern Partnership and other non-EU neighboring countries.
19. The two leaders will continue to cooperate in order to lift the remaining EU's import measures on Japanese food products taken the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake promptly, based on scientific evidence on the risk to human health by food from Japan.
20. In the fields of science and technology, research and innovation, and life sciences, the two countries would pursue the possibility of deepening scientific and technological cooperation by sharing knowledge and experience.
21. The two leaders would work to deepen the mutual understanding of the two countries through culture, sports, tourism, etc., and promote people-to-people exchanges through expert exchanges, working holiday programs, etc. The two countries would pass on the legacy of Mr SUGIHARA Chiune, known for his "Visa for Life," to the next generation.

(Cooperation in the international arena: human rights diplomacy, Security Council reform, disarmament and non-proliferation)

22. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Lithuania would cooperate in the international arena, including the United Nations. Japan and Lithuania intend to deepen cooperation in strengthening the functions of the UN as a whole, including Security Council reform.
23. The two leaders would cooperate to formulate and strengthen norms on "responsible behavior" in the cyber and space fields.
24. With regard to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the two leaders would work together to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime and promote arms control, disarmament, and nuclear non-proliferation.
25. In close cooperation with the international community, the two leaders would contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights.
26. The two leaders concurred not to make any geographical vacuums created by leaving specific regions behind in addressing global health issues and to support Taiwan's participation as an observer in the World Health Assembly. The two leaders will promote cooperation on global issues such as global health, including countermeasures against infectious diseases, and climate change.
27. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned commitments and seeking to support effective implementation of this Joint Statement, the two governments will review the implementation of the Joint Statement at mutually acceptable intervals.