

Joint Statement between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia
2 February 2023

1. Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency KISHIDA Fumio and President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) His Excellency David W. PANUELO, held a meeting in Tokyo on 2 February 2023.
2. The two leaders emphasized their commitment to further develop the traditional, friendly, and cooperative relationship between the two countries, which has been founded on common fundamental values and principles including freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The two leaders celebrated the opening of the new office of the Embassy of the FSM in Japan on the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the FSM.

Advancing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”

3. Amid growing challenges to the fundamental values and principles shared by the two countries and their partners, the two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, where the rights, freedoms and sovereignty of all countries, regardless of size or power, are protected by international law, rules and norms. Prime Minister KISHIDA explained that Japan, as the G7 Presidency, would like to demonstrate the G7’s determination to uphold the international order based on the rule of law, and President PANUELO expressed his support for Japan’s G7 presidency. They also committed to opposing all forms of military, economic, and political coercion and to countering harmful disinformation.
4. Prime Minister KISHIDA explained Japan’s efforts for fundamentally reinforcing its defense capabilities and strengthening diplomatic efforts, as illustrated in the new National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy, and Defense Buildup Program, and President PANUELO expressed his genuine understanding and total support for such efforts by Japan.
5. The two Leaders expressed very serious concerns about the situation in the East and South China Seas, and reiterated their strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion and increase tensions that could undermine regional stability and international order based on the rule of law. They emphasized the importance of non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct

of all activities by claimants and all other states in the South China Sea. They reaffirmed the critical importance of respecting international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight.

6. In view of the cross-cutting impact between security and economy, the two Leaders decided to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in promoting economic security. The two Leaders expressed concern for, and strong opposition to economic coercion to achieve political ends, stressed the importance of the rule-based international economic order, and highlighted the importance of close coordination in addressing economic coercion.

Russia's Aggression against Ukraine

7. The two Leaders condemned Russia for its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. They urged Russia to immediately withdraw its troops and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They condemned Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and stressed that any use of a nuclear weapon by Russia in Ukraine would be an act of hostility against humanity and unjustifiable in any way. They emphasized the 77 years record of non-use of nuclear weapons must be maintained. They committed to continue to support Ukraine, and hold Russia accountable for its actions, and to work together to ensure similar actions will never be repeated, including in the Indo-Pacific.
8. The two Leaders shared the view that the security of Europe and of the Indo-Pacific is inseparable, and expressed strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion anywhere in the world.

Regional Cooperation

9. The two Leaders emphasized the importance of the unity and solidarity of Pacific Island countries in addressing common challenges such as climate change. Prime Minister KISHIDA welcomed that the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders were committed to continuing dialogue towards a resolution to restore the unity of the PIF Family.
10. President PANUELO expressed his deep appreciation for Japan's continued commitment and support to Pacific Island countries through the process of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). Prime Minister KISHIDA reaffirmed the

commitment to further strengthen cooperation between Japan and Pacific Island countries through “All Japan” efforts under Japan’s Pacific Bond (KIZUNA) Policy. The two Leaders reaffirmed the commitment to working together on five priority areas of cooperation: (1) COVID-19 Response and Recovery, (2) Sustainable Oceans based on the Rule of Law, (3) Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, (4) Strengthening Foundation for Sustainable and Resilient Economic Development, and (5) People-to-People Exchanges and Human Resource Development.

Bilateral Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the FSM

11. The two Leaders recognized advancement of bilateral maritime cooperation, including maritime security as a part of their efforts for realizing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” President PANUELO showed his appreciation for the assistance and cooperation by the government and relevant organizations of Japan for the enhancement of the coast guard capability of the FSM. In particular, President PANUELO described the FSM’s appreciation for the forthcoming provision of four small patrol boats that will assist the FSM in safeguarding its sovereignty and its resources.

12. The two Leaders welcomed the signing at Tokyo on 2 February of an Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of medical equipment under the Economic and Social Development Program.

People-to-People Exchanges

13. The two Leaders shared the intention to maintain high-level mutual visits and dialogues as well as to promote exchanges between the two countries’ Parliamentarians, including friendly parliamentary leagues.

14. The two Leaders reaffirmed that people-to-people exchanges should be facilitated in various fields to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries, including further dispatch of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteers, such as in the area of mathematics teaching at the FSM’s public schools.

Recovery of the Remains of Japanese War Dead

15. The two Leaders renewed their determination for peace. Prime Minister KISHIDA expressed his deep appreciation for the FSM’s generous support for recovery of the remains of Japanese war dead, and maintenance and management of monuments to the war dead. President PANUELO expressed his willingness to continue to

cooperate with Japan for promoting the recovery of the remains of the war dead.

Global Cooperation

16. The two Leaders acknowledged the need for intensified global efforts to counter climate change, and committed to working together to build on the outcomes of the COP27 and the latest related reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They emphasized the existential threat that climate change poses to the world, including Pacific Island countries.
17. The two Leaders stressed the importance of transparent and fair development finance to achieve sustainable development in developing countries and called on all actors to adhere to international rules and standards, such as debt sustainability and transparency.
18. The two Leaders strongly condemned North Korea's ongoing development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, including the unprecedented number of ballistic missile launches over the past year, reiterating their commitment to achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and any other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. They urged North Korea to comply with its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and emphasized the importance of the international community fully implementing the UNSCRs. They expressed serious concerns on the human rights situation in North Korea. They also urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue immediately.
19. The two Leaders reaffirmed their support to multilateralism based on the rule of law. They renewed their determination to work together with a view to strengthening the United Nations as a whole, including early reform of the Security Council, in order to deal with serious issues the international community is facing. President PANUELO reiterated the FSM's position that Japan ought to be a permanent member of a reformed Security Council, and Prime Minister KISHIDA expressed his gratitude to the FSM for its support for Japan's permanent membership in a reformed Security Council.
20. The two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to realizing a world without nuclear weapons. The two Leaders reaffirmed that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament

and non-proliferation regime and essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The two Leaders stressed that the 40-year long decline in global nuclear arsenals must be sustained and not reversed. In this regard, President PANUELO welcomed Prime Minister KISHIDA's efforts on nuclear disarmament in line with the "Hiroshima Action Plan."

ALPS Treated Water

21. Noting the points expressed by the PIF leaders with regard to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea in the PALM9 Leaders Declaration, Prime Minister KISHIDA reiterated that the discharge of the ALPS treated water would be conducted while firmly ensuring no harm to the environment and human health, and reassured that Japan would continue its efforts in a transparent manner in accordance with the domestic and international safety standards in cooperation with the international community including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). President PANUELO acknowledged the efforts that Japan has made since PALM9 and welcomed Japan's sincere intent of continuing close and candid dialogues through the framework of PIF as well as through bilateral relations, based on its commitment at PALM9. In particular, President PANUELO noted that substantive briefings on the ALPS issue by resident Ambassador of Japan, H.E. MICHIGAMI Hisashi, have proven extraordinarily fruitful for the FSM's understanding of this complex issue, and that the FSM is no longer as fearful or concerned as previously related at the United Nations General Assembly. President PANUELO assured Prime Minister KISHIDA that these transparent briefings and discussions have substantially increased the FSM's trust in Japan's intentions and Japan's technological capabilities in not harming our shared oceanic assets and resources.