

## Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway

Prime Minister of Japan, KISHIDA Fumio, and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, Jonas Gahr STØRE met in Tokyo on 7 December 2023 on the occasion of Prime Minister Støre's visit to Japan.

1. The two leaders noted that Japan and Norway have a long history of friendship supported by exchanges between the Imperial and Royal Families, and confirmed with satisfaction that the bilateral friendship and cooperation between Japan and Norway is stronger than ever as partners sharing values and principles such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Recognizing the shared interest in working closer together on bilateral, regional, multilateral and global issues to respond to the changing strategic environment, and building onto the solid foundation of nearly 120 years of diplomatic relations, they hereby announced the Strategic Partnership between Japan and Norway, working toward the realization of the free and open international order based on the rule of law, and they reiterated their commitment to protect human dignity.

2. Bearing in mind the 120th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2025, and Norway's participation to the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan in the same year, the two leaders decided to further strengthen bilateral relations in the areas of politics, economy, science and technology, and culture, as well as mutual visits by dignitaries.

### **3. Strengthened political cooperation**

Due to a demanding international political and security environment, the two leaders consented to strengthen political cooperation by regular meetings and dialogue on both senior official and political level to discuss issues of key international and regional importance, such as the following issues:

#### **3.A. Russia's Illegal War of Aggression against Ukraine**

(i) The two leaders condemned in the strongest terms Russia's illegal war of aggression

against Ukraine, which constitutes a serious violation of international law, including the UN Charter. They called on Russia to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and also emphasized that the obligations of international humanitarian law must be upheld, and that attacks on civilians and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate attacks, are prohibited. They concurred that there must be no impunity for war crimes and other atrocities. Those responsible must be held to account. While stressing the importance of the severe sanctions against Russia carried out by both countries, they reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine for as long as it takes and committed to strengthening their support for recovery and reconstruction.

(ii) The two leaders expressed their support for the efforts made by Ukraine to realize a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, including the initiative of Peace Formula, proposed by President Zelenskyy, which is in line with the principles of the UN Charter. They also affirmed their close coordination and continued work towards ensuring the widest possible international support for the Peace Formula and a future Summit.

(iii) The two leaders stressed that threats by Russia of nuclear weapon use is reckless and inadmissible, and underlined that Russia must never use nuclear weapons. The two leaders also expressed their gravest concern over Russia's illegal occupation of and irresponsible actions in and around the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.

(iv) The two leaders also concurred in increasing efforts to cooperate with global partners to act against the circumvention of their restrictive economic measures imposed on Russia. The two countries would maintain, fully implement and expand the economic measures they have already imposed, to further counter Russia's capacity to wage its illegal aggression.

### 3.B. Situation in Israel and Palestine

The two leaders expressed their unequivocal condemnation of the terror attacks against Israel committed by Hamas and others. They emphasized the right of all states to defend themselves and their people. They also underscored that all actions must be taken in accordance with international law including international humanitarian law. In particular, all parties must protect the civilians affected by the hostilities. They also expressed grave concern for the humanitarian situation in Gaza. They reiterated the paramount importance of the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and ensuring safety of civilians

and redoubling of diplomatic efforts to calm the situation at the soonest to prevent further instability in the wider region. They stressed that it is vital to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis and ensure further humanitarian pauses, and urge all parties concerned to act in good faith based on the UN Security Council resolution 2712. They affirmed to collaborate in delivering aid to the people of Gaza. They reiterated the need for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a “two-state solution”.

### 3.C. Indo-Pacific

(i) The two leaders affirmed the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific to both countries, which are maritime states. A free and open Indo-Pacific is inclusive, prosperous, secure, based on the rule of law, and protects shared principles including sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as freedom and fundamental human rights. From this perspective, they affirmed their support for ASEAN centrality and unity as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The two leaders expressed their readiness to build constructive and stable relationship with China, recognizing the importance of engaging candidly and expressing their concerns directly to China. They concurred in the necessity to cooperate with China on global challenges including climate change and in areas of common interest.

(ii) The two leaders affirmed the importance of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which sets out the legal framework that governs all activities in the oceans and seas and emphasized the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, in particular UNCLOS and the UN Charter. They strongly opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion anywhere in the world. In this context, the two leaders shared their serious concern over the situation in the East and South China Seas and stressed that all maritime claims must be based on the relevant provisions of UNCLOS.

### 3.D. North Korea

The two leaders strongly condemned North Korea’s ongoing development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, in violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs), including the unprecedented number of unlawful ballistic missile launches. They also strongly condemned North Korea’s launch using ballistic missile technology for the purpose of satellite launch last month which flew over the Japanese archipelago

and stressed that any launch using ballistic missile technology is a clear violation of UNSCRs and threatens the safety of civil aviation and maritime traffic in the region. They remained committed to the goal of achieving North Korea's abandonment of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. They urged North Korea to fully comply with all obligations under the relevant UNSCRs and called on all UN member states to fully implement the relevant UNSCRs on North Korea. They urged North Korea to respect human rights and resolve the abductions issue immediately.

#### **4. Arctic**

(i) The two leaders concurred in cooperating to promote stability and constructive cooperation in the Arctic, based on knowledge and the principles of responsible and sustainable management. They affirmed the importance that all activities in the Arctic region is undertaken in conformity with international law, including herewith respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and sovereign rights. They acknowledged the importance of working together to promote cooperation in the Arctic Council as the pre-eminent multilateral forum for Arctic issues, including strengthening the scientific basis for management of the environment and activities in the Arctic.

(ii) The two leaders noted the excellent scientific cooperation between Japan and Norway on Arctic issues, including the work of the National Institute of Polar Research at the Norwegian Ny-Ålesund research station in Svalbard and the two countries' participation in European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association (EISCAT), where we jointly operate research radars in Svalbard and on the mainland. The two leaders shared the ambition to build knowledge on the rapid climate change in the Arctic, the impact on ecosystems, endangered species, and the role of the Arctic for the global climate including through cooperation and exchange on Arctic research, including building on the strength of respective national scientific programs.

#### **5. Antarctic Treaty System**

(i) The two leaders confirmed Japan's and Norway's common interest in maintaining a well-functioning Antarctic Treaty System. They recognized that the international cooperation that has occurred under the Antarctic Treaty of 1 December 1959 has kept an entire continent outside the fluctuations of world politics, and has made possible an

unprecedented level of international scientific cooperation while laying the groundwork for a joint commitment by the treaty parties to extensive environmental protection.

(ii) The two leaders concurred in continuing the fruitful cooperation in support of the work of the Commission of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, CCAMLR. Noting that CAMLR Convention stipulates that the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources includes the rational use, they emphasized the importance of incorporating fisheries management perspective in developing a representative system of marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean.

## **6. Security and Defense**

(i) The two leaders expressed similar assessments on the international security environment, and concurred in continuing to conduct inter-governmental dialogues, including regular political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of both countries, in order to share their knowledge and information as like-minded countries. Recognizing the importance of strengthening cooperation on security and defense policy and smooth communication between defense authorities of both countries, the two leaders confirmed to further develop the bilateral defense dialogue including Military to Military (MM) dialogue (Director General level).

(ii) The two leaders underlined the importance of increased vigilance and enhanced coordination among like-minded countries to address economic, social and security risks in the digital sphere, including protecting critical infrastructure from challenges posed by exercise of illegitimate influence, espionage, information manipulation including dissemination of disinformation, illegitimate knowledge and information theft, illicit knowledge leakage, sabotage, and others.

(iii) The two leaders recognized the inseparability of the security of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific, and highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between NATO and its partners in the Indo-Pacific region, including Japan. Prime Minister Støre welcomed Prime Minister Kishida's attendance at the NATO Summit Meeting held in Lithuania in July 2023 and the formulation of the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme, a new program for the Japan-NATO cooperation. Prime Minister Kishida praised the contribution of Norway as a founding member of NATO.

(iv) The two leaders recognized that the procurement of the Norwegian Joint strike missile by Japan and Japan's strategic documents such as Japan's National Security Strategy of December 2022 have formed a basis for further developing defense material cooperation.

## **7. Trade and Investment**

(i) The two leaders recognized the importance of maintaining and strengthening the free and fair rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core for trade and investment relationship between both countries, and concurred in working together on WTO reform, including working towards having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024. They also acknowledged the importance of working together in advancing plurilateral initiatives including the Joint Statement Initiatives, especially on E-Commerce negotiations and making permanent the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmission.

(ii) The two leaders recalled the steady progress in bilateral trade and investment, welcomed the recent collaboration between Japanese and Norwegian companies in areas such as seafood, maritime and clean energy, and recognized the importance of jointly ensuring open and transparent markets. It was recognized that both countries should strive to lower trade barriers as much as possible. They welcomed the steady increase in strategic partnerships between companies within areas relevant for the green transition, such as offshore wind, hydrogen and ammonia, batteries and CCS(Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage)/CCUS(Carbon dioxide Capture, Utilization and Storage) and further encouraged collaboration in areas such as energy storage and health technologies. The two leaders welcomed the close Green Strategic Partnership Joint Communiqué between the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway on a Japan-Norwegian Strategic Partnership to facilitate increased trade and investment, especially in net-zero solutions. They shared the hope that these developments would provide a positive stimulus to the economies and societies of both countries which will contribute to improving the framework for bilateral economic relations.

(iii) The two leaders recognized the significance of enhanced mobility between both countries for business, research and education and welcomed the commencement of negotiations for a bilateral social security agreement, which will contribute to improving the welfare of the people of both countries.

(iv) The two leaders expressed their hopes for a successful organization of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan with the participation of Norway and other Nordic countries.

## **8. Economic Security**

(i) The two leaders appreciated the G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security, adopted at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, and concurred in enhancing cooperation on economic security.

(ii) The two leaders recognized that transparency, diversification, security, sustainability, and trustworthiness and reliability are essential principles on which to build and strengthen resilient supply-chain networks among trusted partners who honor international norms and obligations, and are committed to free, fair and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationships. They also recognized the need to reduce excessive dependencies in critical supply chains as well as build and strengthen resilient supply chains with allies and trusted partners for advanced technologies and critical materials, including products essential for a clean energy transition.

(iii) The two leaders expressed concerns on economic coercion and the comprehensive strategies to use a wide and evolving range of non-market policies and practices that distort the global level playing field. They concurred that such policies and practices should be addressed in an appropriate manner. They opposed the illegitimate transfer of critical and emerging technologies through research activities and the misuse of such technologies. They also expressed their intention to work together to prevent cutting-edge technologies developed by both countries from being used to enhance military capabilities that threaten international peace and security. The two leaders welcomed the G7 leaders' strong commitment to collaborate with international partners in pursuing a more conscious policy to enhance economic security.

## **9. Digitalization**

The two leaders underlined the fundamental importance of the promotion of digitalization for achieving economic growth and a sustainable society and confirmed the importance of mutual learning and cooperation between Japan and Norway, both of which have strengths in this field. They also welcomed a closer cooperation between Japan and

Norway in the digital sector. They confirmed that they would continue to work together to promote inclusive digitalization, including digital government (e-government), and to promote the free flow of data and strengthen consumer and business trust including protecting privacy, security and intellectual property rights. They also shared the view on the importance of working continuously on secure, safe and trustworthy AI and continued cooperation on development of responsible AI policies through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, including perspectives of Hiroshima AI Process outcomes.

## **10. Sustainable Oceans**

(i) The two leaders affirmed that promoting clean, healthy and productive oceans are of vital importance to the international community and confirmed to continue their efforts to increase international recognition on the importance of the oceans for food security, energy production and job creation, and on the need to promote sustainable use of marine resources and clean and healthy oceans as a source of value creation. To this end, they concurred in continuing their work through the High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), where they themselves are members, in order to ensure the Panel will provide valuable input in the period leading up to the UN Ocean Conference in Nice in 2025. They also acknowledged the importance of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). They reaffirmed the need for enhanced ocean management including conservation and sustainable use. They underlined the importance of the cooperation on ocean science in the process towards UN Ocean Conference. They also concurred into continuing their cooperation in the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution with a view to develop an ambitious international legally binding instrument against plastic pollution by the end of 2024. The two leaders further recognized their common objective of achieving robust international regulations for exploitation activities in the area based on the highest environmental standards, in accordance with their obligations under UNCLOS and the agreed roadmap within the framework of the International Seabed Authority, where both countries are Council members.

(ii) The two leaders acknowledged that Norway and Japan are partners that share the importance of ensuring sustainable use of marine living resources including cetacean species based on scientific evidence. The two leaders reaffirmed to continue to cooperate through international organizations such as International Commission for the



Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

(iii) The two leaders paid tribute to the longstanding collaboration between both countries in the fishing sector, welcoming Japanese investments in Norwegian salmon production, and Norwegian seafoods contribution to Japan's food security and value creation. The two leaders confirmed that they would make efforts to conduct bilateral consultations regarding trade issues in such areas.

## **11. Climate Change and Green Transition**

(i) The two leaders concurred that this decade represents a closing window of opportunity to get on track with limiting global warming to 1,5 degrees, and that it will require bold decisions. Taking note of Japan's initiatives in introducing clean energy, such as the Asia Zero Emission Community platform, and Norway's advanced and proactive activities in renewable energy and low-carbon solutions, including offshore wind, hydrogen and ammonia, batteries and CCS, they expressed their determination to work together to promote clean energy transitions globally and to achieve climate neutrality at the latest by 2050.

(ii) The two leaders concurred to enhance the dialogue and cooperation between both countries on climate, environment, energy and industrial transformation. They confirmed that both countries are well-positioned and ambitious to further develop and implement measures to accelerate the clean transition. They shared views on the need to accelerate the deployment of clean energy solutions to further enhance energy security, and the development and deployment of next-generation technologies to ensure sustainable, inclusive, resilient economic and climate-friendly growth.

(iii) The two leaders acknowledged the common view on the decarbonization pathway for shipping and appreciated the close coordination within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) during negotiations of 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships for international shipping. They underlined the importance of continuous exchange and cooperation between authorities of both countries on the development of future IMO mid-term measures to implement the IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships for international shipping. They encouraged the continuation of the collaboration between authorities of both countries on green

shipping, established through the signing of the Memorandum on Cooperation in the field of maritime technology and industry between the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan signed in 2011. They also recalled the public and private partnerships between both countries in areas such as electrification of the coastal fleet and digitalization of the maritime industry, and encouraged enhanced collaboration on research and development, including autonomous operations in the maritime sector. They shared the hope that the results of cooperation between shipping and energy companies from both countries will contribute to achieving the ambitious strategy by the IMO for decarbonization of the maritime industry by or around 2050.

## **12. Science and Innovation**

The two leaders shared the importance of learning from each other's experiences and knowledge and advancing together through science, and innovation towards achieving equitable and vibrant societies. From this perspective, they welcomed the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Norway on Cooperation in Science and Technology. They confirmed their intention to promote initiatives on science, research and advanced technology collaboration in a wide range of fields, with priority cooperation areas such as energy and environment, maritime research including in the Arctic, space, nanotechnology and new materials, and medical, nursing and welfare technology, taking advantage of opportunities such as the Joint Committee Meeting on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

## **13. Development and International Partnerships**

(i) The two leaders recognized the importance of strengthening international outreach and partnerships. In the face of multiple global crises, international partnerships are essential to promote rule of law and human rights and democratic principles globally. They underlined the importance of promoting sustainable development globally and recalled their commitments to the SDGs. Furthermore, they confirmed their continued support for vulnerable countries and displaced populations affected by conflicts, climate change as well as the global food and energy crisis brought about by Russia's war of aggression. They shared the importance of emphasizing measures, in international development cooperation, that can lift people out of poverty for good.

(ii) Highlighting the leading role of women in the prevention of violent conflicts, delivering efforts for relief and recovery efforts and forging lasting peace, the two leaders encouraged the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation such as that in the UN and regional organizations. They confirmed to continue cooperation on long-term focus areas, but also with emphasis on new global challenges, such as the impact of climate change on peace and security. They shared the view that it was important to have a clear gender perspective in the work for peace, the environment and a more climate-resilient society.

#### **14. Cooperation in the International and Regional Arena**

(i) The two leaders mutually appreciated the responsible role that Japan is currently playing as a non-permanent member of the Security Council of the UN and the proactive contributions of Norway in areas such as peace, humanitarian affairs, human rights and climate change, confirming that both countries would continue to cooperate in the international fora including the UN. They also underlined the need for the UN reform, including enhancing the role of the UN General Assembly. They concurred in working closely towards the UN Security Council reform, including expansion in permanent and non-permanent categories of membership.

(ii) Prime Minister Støre welcomed “G7 Leaders’ Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament”, adopted at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, and the two leaders concurred in striving for the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, achieved through a balanced, verifiable and irreversible approach. They further acknowledged the value of practical efforts, like the multilateral work on nuclear disarmament verification. Prime Minister Støre expressed appreciation for Japan’s Presidency of the G7-led Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction through 2023. They deeply regretted Russia’s decision to suspend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) and Russia’s decision to revoke its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Furthermore, they shared their concerns on China’s build-up of its nuclear arsenal without transparency, and called on China and Russia to engage substantively in all relevant initiatives for disarmament and risk reduction in line with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and commitments including the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-

Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races of 3 January 2022.

(iii) They also stressed the importance that all states refrain from launching activities posing unacceptable risks to the territory, people and environment of other states, violating the sovereignty of other states or any other relevant obligation under international law.

(iv) Regarding the discharge of Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water into the sea, the two leaders took note of the Comprehensive Report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which concludes that the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea is consistent with relevant international safety standards and confirmed that the continued review and monitoring carried out by the IAEA are of significant importance. Prime Minister Kishida stressed that the discharge of ALPS treated water is an important step in the reconstruction following the Great East Japan Earthquake and reiterated his heartfelt appreciation to Norway for its countless support and messages of encouragement in the wake of the disaster. Prime Minister Støre appreciated Japan's efforts to provide explanations to the international community based on scientific evidence and in a highly transparent manner. The two leaders also shared concerns about some claims and activities that are not based on scientific evidence and stressed the importance of discussions based on scientific evidence.

(v) The two leaders concurred in facilitating closer dialogue and cooperation between Japan and the Nordic countries, including at the heads of government and ministerial level.

7 December 2023 in Tokyo, Japan.