

Joint Press Statement
Visit to Japan by Australian Prime Minister Turnbull

18 January 2018

Tokyo

Overview

1. Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Turnbull met in Tokyo today for the annual Japan-Australia summit meeting. The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen the Japan-Australia Special Strategic Partnership, which is founded on common values and strategic interests. In particular, the two leaders affirmed their commitment to cooperating to ensure a free, open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region founded on the international rules-based order. They also affirmed that Japan and Australia remain deeply invested in each other's success in pursuing security and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Indo-Pacific Region

2. The two leaders highlighted the ever-growing convergence of the strategic interests of both countries and confirmed that Japan and Australia share a vision for the Indo-Pacific region, consistent with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy and Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper. The two leaders welcomed the greater engagement of both countries with the Indo-Pacific region under their respective policies. Furthermore, they confirmed their commitment to enhancing their coordination and cooperation and to aligning their respective efforts, both bilaterally and in partnership with like-minded countries, to realise this vision for the region.

Security and Defence Cooperation

3. The two leaders directed their respective Ministers of Defence to pursue even deeper and broader defence cooperation in 2018, including exercises, operations, capacity building, navy, army and air force visits, and further cooperation on defence equipment, science and technology. They looked forward to the first bilateral exercise involving fighter jets of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in Japan in 2018.

4. The two leaders welcomed the entry into force of the new Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement in September 2017, which will facilitate even closer defence logistics support and cooperation in the course of activities such as joint exercises, training and peacekeeping operations.

5. In light of the two countries' converging strategic interests, the two leaders underscored the importance of concluding the negotiation of a reciprocal access agreement, which would improve administrative, policy and legal procedures to facilitate joint operations and exercises. They looked forward to the mutual benefits that intensified bilateral defence cooperation would bring. The two leaders welcomed the recent progress in negotiations, and directed all relevant Ministers to conclude the negotiations as early as feasible, including by utilising the Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting.

6. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to an open, free, fair and secure cyberspace, and resolved to continue cooperating toward this end. They reiterated that existing international law and voluntary norms of responsible state behavior in peacetime apply in cyberspace. They also reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to enhance cooperation on responding to malicious cyber activities, including the global challenge of disinformation and political interference. They confirmed their intention to strengthen cooperation in the fields of space, countering terrorism and violent extremism, non-proliferation, disarmament and counter-proliferation.

Economic relations

7. The two leaders underlined the strategic importance of a free and open rules-based trading system for global stability and prosperity. In this regard, they shared their determination to coordinate closely and exercise leadership towards the signing and entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership as soon as possible. They reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a high-quality Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that would promote closer regional economic integration.

8. The two leaders highlighted the importance of enhancing connectivity for economic prosperity through the development of quality infrastructure in an open, transparent, non-exclusive and sustainable manner in accordance with international standards.

9. The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to deepen regional economic cooperation through Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and to support Papua New Guinea as APEC Chair this year. They affirmed their commitment to continuing to work closely together at the G20, the premier forum for international economic cooperation, and confirmed their intention to cooperate closely during Japan's presidency in 2019.

10. Noting the value of enhanced dialogue on strategic economic priorities, the two leaders announced the establishment of a Ministerial Economic Dialogue between the Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. The two leaders also welcomed the success of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement, upon its third anniversary, in encouraging greater flows of trade and investment.

11. The two leaders commended ongoing progress in collaboration for the Innovation Framework established under the Japan-Australia Memorandum of Cooperation on Innovation, including the adoption of a work plan. In this context the leaders looked forward to further collaboration on the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Project to harness this secure and low-emissions energy source. They also welcomed cooperation on Japan's Quasi Zenith Satellite System and the formulation of several concrete projects in the area of innovative technology.

12. The two leaders looked forward to continuing and sustainable cooperation on resources and energy, based on Australia's status as a reliable and stable supplier and Japan's status as a key trade partner and investor in Australia's resources and energy sector. They also welcomed progress in energy cooperation, including in the continuing development of regional coal and LNG markets.

13. The two leaders confirmed bilateral cooperation and collaboration in agriculture and the development of northern Australia.

Regional Affairs

14. The two leaders reaffirmed the enduring importance of Japan's and Australia's respective alliances with the United States, which are fundamental to each country's security and underpin broader regional stability and prosperity. They welcomed the United States' strong engagement to bolster security, stability and prosperity and the rules-based order in the region.

15. The two leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to further enhancing trilateral cooperation among Australia, Japan and the United States, in order to ensure the peaceful, stable and prosperous future of the Indo-Pacific region. They also reaffirmed their intention to further develop trilateral cooperation with India and to continue close coordination to advance cooperation among Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

16. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to continuing to work together to strengthen the East Asia Summit as the region's premier leaders-led forum for addressing strategic challenges. They emphasised the importance of Southeast Asia to realising a prosperous Indo-Pacific region and welcomed both countries' increased engagement with ASEAN, noting Australia's hosting of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit 2018 and the 45th year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

17. The two leaders condemned in the strongest terms North Korea's continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in flagrant violation of relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. They strongly urged North Korea to comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions and the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and stressed that they would never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea. The two leaders affirmed that meaningful dialogue to resolve this issue peacefully will require concrete action by North Korea toward denuclearisation. They called on all countries to fully implement relevant UNSC resolutions, including Resolution 2397, and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing coordination to implement strong autonomous sanctions and to bringing maximum pressure to North Korea to achieve denuclearisation. They also called on North Korea to end its human rights violations and resolve the abductions issue immediately.

18. The two leaders remained concerned about the situation in the South China Sea (SCS). They reiterated the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, and resolving maritime disputes peacefully through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes and in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They expressed their strong opposition to any coercive unilateral actions that could change the status quo, including the use of disputed features for military purposes, and urged all parties to pursue the demilitarisation of such features. They acknowledged progress on the Code of Conduct for the SCS (COC) and supported the early conclusion of negotiations for an effective COC.

19. The two leaders shared their intention to remain in close communication about the situation in the East China Sea and expressed strong opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions in the area.

20. The two leaders expressed their commitment to continuing to step up bilateral and trilateral maritime security cooperation, including capacity building for third countries in the fields of maritime law enforcement and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

21. The two leaders welcomed increasing bilateral coordination and communication in the Pacific region under the Japan-Australia Strategy for Cooperation in the Pacific. They resolved to cooperate closely for the success of the eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 8), scheduled to be held in May 2018 in Iwaki, Fukushima.

People-to-People exchanges

22. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of deepening and expanding people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, including at the regional level, which underpin the vitality of the bilateral relationship. In this regard, they welcomed the recent increase in direct flights between the two countries.

23. The two leaders stated their intention to cooperate for the success of the Rugby World Cup 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and to further facilitate people-to-people exchanges through these events. Prime Minister Abe looked forward to Australia's flagship public diplomacy program, "*Australia now*", being held in Japan in 2018. The program will include performances and cultural and sporting events that explore the themes of science, research and innovation; creativity and design; and Australian lifestyle.

24. The two leaders also recognised the importance of the continued development of linkages between young professionals in both countries, including through the Japan-Australia Business Co-operation Committee / Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee Future Leaders Program and the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue.

Conclusion

25. Prime Minister Abe welcomed Prime Minister Turnbull's offer to host the next summit meeting in Australia.