

# **INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME BETWEEN JAPAN AND NATO**

**Approved on 31 May 2018**

## **1. POLITICAL CONTEXT AND PRINCIPLES**

1.1 Japan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are reliable and natural partners, sharing common values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as strategic interests. We cooperate closely in order to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law. We are each determined to safeguard these shared values and strategic interests as well as the freedom and the security of our populations. We also attach importance to deterring conflict and preventing crises through multilateral cooperation.

1.2 Although the security environments are different in the Asia-Pacific region and the Euro-Atlantic region, and notwithstanding geographical distance between Japan and the member nations of NATO, in a more globalised and interlinked world, each of these two regions is affected by, and can affect, political and security developments beyond its borders. We acknowledge our shared strategic interests in promoting global peace, stability and prosperity, by pursuing a rules-based international order that promotes the peaceful settlement of disputes through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes. We are also aware of the need to address global and emerging security challenges, such as cyber defence, maritime security and counter-terrorism, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

1.3 We are committed to strengthening our partnership in areas that are in our shared strategic interest. Such commitment is founded on the commonalities in respective major policy documents of Japan and NATO including Japan's National Security Strategy which outlines the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation and NATO's 2010 Strategic Concept which commits the Alliance to promoting international security through cooperation with its partners.

## **2. PURPOSE AND MODALITIES FOR COOPERATION**

2.1 This Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme is aimed at further progressing Japan-NATO cooperation based on the previous Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme, signed by the Prime Minister of Japan and the NATO Secretary General in Brussels on 6 May 2014.

2.2 Japan and NATO will promote cooperation as follows:

- To strengthen high-level dialogue between Japan and NATO;

- To promote defence cooperation and exchanges, including by increasing Japan's participation in NATO's Partnership Cooperation Menu activities, and promoting information sharing, as well as collaborating and strengthening capabilities of Japan and NATO to address the aforementioned challenges through exchange of experiences, lessons learned, expertise and information;
- To promote practical cooperation with a view to consolidating international peace and stability.

### **3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION**

3.1 In addition to promoting political dialogue and defence exchanges between them, Japan and NATO will promote practical cooperation with a focus on the following priority areas, covering Areas for Cooperation identified in the Partnership Cooperation Menu:

3.1.1 Cyber Defence;

3.1.2 Maritime security;

3.1.3 Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

3.1.4 Disarmament, in particular related to small arms and light weapons, arms control, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

3.1.5 Defence science and technology;

3.1.6 Women, peace and security;

3.1.7 Public diplomacy activities; and

3.1.8 Other defence and security cooperation in the areas of mutual interest between Japan and NATO.

3.2 The cooperation between Japan and NATO will include joint meetings, Japanese participation in NATO activities open to partner countries such as seminars and symposiums, the use of NATO's partnership tools including the Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS), exchange activities between Japanese and NATO officials, and participation in each other's exercises where appropriate. NATO may consider contributing assets to Japanese exercises in the Indo-Pacific region, where NATO participation would be appropriate.

3.3 Japan and NATO will develop cooperation including through Japan's contribution of a Voluntary National Contribution (VNC) to the NATO Headquarters, Japan's appointment of Liaison Officers to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and to Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM), and Japan's contribution of an expert to the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE).

#### **4. PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING THE INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

4.1 This programme will commence on the date of endorsement.

4.2 The cooperation resulting from this programme should be reviewed at regular intervals by Japan and NATO through a jointly-owned process. This programme may be modified or updated as a result of such review upon mutual consent.