

Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership
between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the
Government of Japan, on the Occasion of the Meeting between the
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis
and the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kishida Fumio

Introduction

On the occasion of the meeting between the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kishida Fumio, on 30 January 2023, in Tokyo, the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation between the two countries, based on the close ties of friendship and the common understanding that the international community are facing a difficult international situation, calling for further coordinated action.

On this occasion the two leaders:

Affirmed that both countries share fundamental values such as democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

Stressed their unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Charter that constitute the foundation of international order based on the rule of law.

Underlined that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, must be fully respected by all members of the international community.

Confirmed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes.

Reaffirmed the importance of compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as maritime states.

Recognized that the free and open international order based on the rule of law is now at stake, witnessing historical changes in power balances and intensifying geopolitical competitions, and the world is now at a historical inflection point in the most severe and complex security environment since the end of WWII.

Underscored the importance of views on recent geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific described in the Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific issued in September 2021.

Affirmed that with the growing recognition of the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security, both countries shared the necessity of further strengthening cooperation between both countries and like-minded countries in order to respond to the changing strategic environment. In this regard, the Hellenic Republic expressed its appreciation for the adoption of the National Security Strategy of Japan, including fundamental reinforcement of its defense capabilities, and its continuous support to Ukraine.

Referred to the Joint Action Plan signed by the two governments in 2002, as a solid foundation for promoting common goals and launching common initiatives to the mutual benefit of both sides and committed to enrich and upgrade their relations to a Strategic Partnership, covering cooperation in a wider spectrum of fields of common interest and concern.

Reaffirmed that their Strategic Partnership would be founded on, but not limited to, the pillars outlined below:

1. Political Cooperation

The two leaders expressed their readiness to:

Work toward the maintenance and strengthening of the free and open international order based on the rule of law, by strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation on a broad range of matters.

Intensify their political dialogue and exchange of views through the continued exchange of high-level visits, the regular Political Consultations between Foreign Ministries as well as other meetings with the aim of reviewing the implementation of this Joint Statement.

Pursue regular bilateral consultations between each country's Foreign Ministries on maritime issues including those related to UNCLOS.

Encourage inter-parliamentary dialogue between the respective Friendship Groups in the Parliament of the Hellenic Republic and both houses of the National Diet of Japan.

Explore the possibility of expanding the bilateral legal framework.

2. Regional Issues

On the basis of both countries' firm commitment to the UN Charter and the full respect of international law, including UNCLOS, as well as their roles as pillars of stability in their respective regions, the two leaders:

Reiterated their willingness to exchange views on developments in each country's region, including with regard to the Indo-Pacific, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Western Balkans.

Reiterated their strong condemnation of Russia's unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's continuous inhumane and brutal attacks targeting civilians and critical infrastructure. Reaffirmed their support to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Underscored the importance of the international community's unity in responding to Russia's aggression through sanctions and other measures.

Condemned Russia's 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 by Russia would meet with unequivocal international opprobrium and resolute responses.

Reiterated the strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion that increase tensions and undermine regional stability and international order based on the rule of law anywhere in the world including the Eastern Mediterranean and the East and South China Seas. Also emphasized the need to respect the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Reiterated their principled stance on the Cyprus Question, on the basis of relevant UNSC Resolutions.

Condemned North Korea's ongoing development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, including the ballistic missile launches over the past year with unprecedented frequency and in an unprecedented manner, in violation of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and urged North Korea to abandon all its nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, as well as other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, underscored the importance of full implementation of the relevant UNSCRs. Urged North Korea to fully comply with its obligations under relevant UNSCRs, address violations of human rights, and immediately resolve the abductions issue.

Shared the view that the Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the vision of “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” promoted by Japan can contribute to the stability, security, and sustainable development of said region. Reaffirmed their commitment to promoting cooperation for the FOIP.

Expressed their readiness to explore ways of further expanding their existing cooperation in the Western Balkans based on but not limited to the “Western Balkan Cooperation Initiative” promoted by Japan.

3. Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation in Priority Sectors

The two leaders:

(1) Maritime Cooperation

Expressed their commitment to free, open and stable seas underpinned by adherence to international law, particularly UNCLOS, recognizing that States can exercise freedom of navigation and overflight and are not subject to coercive or destabilizing actions under international law.

Acknowledged each side’s important role as maritime nations and as such attributed top priority to navigation safety, free and open seaways and the promotion of the shipping industry.

Expressed their determination to promote safe, secure and sustainable shipping and maritime activities in general, in full respect to UNCLOS and in accordance with IMO Conventions, to which both countries are parties, and IMO resolutions.

Welcomed the plan of Japan Coast Guard training vessel to call in Greece in 2023 and reiterated their view that an enhanced and structured coastguard network and cooperation, as promoted by the Coast Guard Global Summit are important enablers in this respect.

Expressed their willingness to further promote their cooperation in the shipping sector, on the basis of the existing solid institutional framework and as members of Category A of the IMO Council and the Consultative Shipping Group.

Also expressed their desire to pursue their long-standing cooperation on maritime technology and industry in a mutually beneficial way and in turn facilitate the engagement between the respective stakeholders in the field

of maritime technology and industry, in accordance with the relevant Memorandum on Cooperation in the field of maritime technology and industry between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of the Hellenic Republic, signed in London on 25 November 2019.

(2) Economic Cooperation, Investments & Trade

Welcomed the reaching of an agreement on a final draft of a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and agreed to proceed with the process of the signature.

Expressed their determination to support initiatives aiming at enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations.

Acknowledged the visit of the Japan Business Federation “Keidanren” delegation to Athens, in October 2022, was recognized as an excellent opportunity for networking and interaction with the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises.

Reaffirmed their intention to promote and facilitate bilateral investment and trade particularly in the fields of technology and innovation, energy, tourism, and pharmaceuticals. To this end, committed to encourage cooperation between the respective investment and trade promotion organizations, namely the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and Enterprise Greece (EG), and also between respective export credit agencies, namely Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) and Export Credit Greece (ECG) through signing the respective Memorandum of Cooperation/Understanding, for further economic cooperation in the future.

(3) Tourism

Welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Japan Tourism Agency and the Ministry of Tourism of Hellenic Republic in the field of tourism.

Reiterated their wish to further strengthen their cooperation by exploring all possible avenues and possibilities, in this context welcomed the joint proclamation of the “Year of Culture & Tourism” between Greece and Japan in 2024, on the occasion of the exhibition “Posidonia 2024”.

(4) Cooperation on Defense and Security

Expressed their intention to cooperate actively in order to enhance their bilateral cooperation in the defense domain, specifically regarding consultations between both Defense authorities in the field of defense cooperation and exchanges, which include the area of defense equipment and technology.

(5) Transport

Expressed their readiness to strengthen their collaboration in the field of transport, particularly through the exchange of best practices in rail development projects.

(6) Cooperation in Energy Sector

Acknowledged that the current energy crisis demonstrates the imperative need to develop a solid strategy of energy diversification of supply sources and routes.

Expressed their willingness to explore the possibility of cooperation in the field of energy, through investments, infrastructure development and technical cooperation in light of ongoing projects.

Identified a common interest in promoting a flexible and transparent global LNG market, and investment in LNG sector as the two countries possess a large share of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) ship ownership worldwide.

(7) Cooperation in the Space Domain

Expressed willingness to cooperate in the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), in both the Legal and Scientific and Technical sub-committees.

In this context, the Greek side expressed its readiness to engage in bilateral discussions and further actions in the space domain with Japan, focusing on science and research as well as the usage of space for peaceful purposes.

(8) Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Education

Committed to promote intercultural understanding, people-to-people contacts and exchanges through examining bilateral programs in the fields of culture and education.

Expressed their interest to cooperate in the sectors of conservation, restoration and safeguarding of cultural heritage in terms of cultural heritage preservation.

Welcomed exchanges of information and know-how in the fields of museum management, planning and coordination of archaeological museum exhibitions and in the development of communication and educational activities in museums.

Revitalized their readiness to implement the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of Japan signed in Athens on March 4th 1981, especially articles V and VII.

Acknowledged that the teaching and research at universities and other educational and research institutes will contribute greatly to the improvement of bilateral ties, in the field of academic cooperation.

(9) Research and Development

Highlighted the importance of research and innovation for competitiveness and sustainable growth and encouraged universities, funding agencies, research centers and other institutions and organizations engaged in scientific research to forge partnership in various fields of scientific research.

(10) Sport

Recalled the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Sport Sector, signed in Kazan on 15 July 2017, between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology of Japan and the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Hellenic Republic.

Reaffirmed their desire for its implementation and would welcome sport exchanges between the two sides.

4. Cooperation in Multilateral Frameworks

The two leaders:

(1) Cooperation in the UN Framework

Expressed their willingness to further enhance their already excellent cooperation within the UN system.

Shared the view that increased coordination will be important during the two countries' respective terms as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (Japan: 2023-2024, Greece, if elected: 2025-2026).

Concurred to the importance of an early reform of the UN Security Council, and decided to enhance cooperation to this end, including in the negotiation process of the UN.

(2) Strengthening Cooperation in the European Union Framework

Appreciated the close and comprehensive partnership between Japan and the European Union based upon the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Strategic Partnership Agreement, grounded in common interests and the shared values of freedom, respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, open, free and fair trade, effective multilateralism and the rules-based international order and expressed their willingness to deepen cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral level, especially concerning trade and digital transformation, climate action, innovation and sustainable growth.

Highlighted that the EU and Japan, supporting open and rules-based international trade should work together in the context of international organizations, in order to promote their common values and goals. Expressed concerns with and opposed economic coercion through the use, or threat of use, of economic measures affecting trade and investment, which are frequently intended to induce or influence a foreign government in the exercise of its legitimate right, choices or legitimate claims based on international law. Reiterated the importance of transparent and fair development finance which adheres to the international principles, rules and standards, including the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.

Welcomed the launch of the EU Japan Digital Partnership and recognized that the digital transformation of the society and the economy are the main drivers for achieving economic growth and social prosperity.

Reaffirmed the cooperation between Japan and the EU on reviewing, based on scientific evidence on the risk to human health by food from Japan, the

EU's food import measures taken in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake by June 2023.

(3) Cooperation on Defense and Security in the NATO Framework

Welcomed the decisions made at the NATO Brussels Summit in 2021, as well as at the NATO Madrid Summit in 2022 on the NATO-Asia Pacific Partners' agenda for tackling shared security challenges.

Recognized the importance of strengthening NATO's engagement in the Indo-Pacific in order to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific, and shared the view that it is necessary to further promote Japan-NATO cooperation.

5. Cooperation on Global Issues

The two leaders:

(1) Cooperation on Development and Disaster prevention

Expressed their wish to advance cooperation on projects in the humanitarian and development sectors, and acknowledged the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction.

(2) Climate Change

Recognized that climate change requires urgent and coordinated global action and reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and to reaching net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

(3) Cybersecurity

Acknowledged the need for closer and more effective coordination in the field of cyber-security, as well as in cyber-crime prevention and investigation.

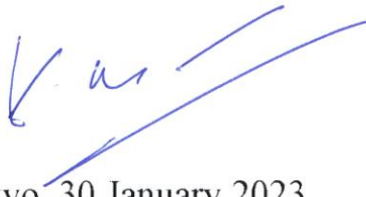
(4) Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation

Reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and concurred to continue to work together in this area.

Reiterated their readiness to work together on disarmament and international security, inter alia, within the framework of the UN General Assembly First Committee for promoting the yearly UN General Assembly's Resolution for a world without nuclear weapons.

(5)Global Economic Situation

Recognized rising energy, food and fertilizer prices and supply disruptions that have stymied global economic growth as matters of common concern.



Tokyo, 30 January 2023

Kyriakos Mitsotakis

Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic



Kishida Fumio

Prime Minister of Japan