

16.10.2018

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

1. On the occasion of his visit to Spain on the 16th of October 2018, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, met with H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain.
2. The two leaders reaffirmed that both countries share the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights, gender equality and the rule of law. The two leaders are committed to further strengthening bilateral relations by exercising collaborative leadership to maintain the international law and the rules-based international order, which is the foundation of global security, sustainable development and prosperity.
3. The two leaders recognized the importance of Japan's participation in security cooperation at the multilateral level, particularly the efforts made by Prime Minister Abe in this regard, as well as of Spain's vision as an active European Union Member State and NATO ally, for international peace and security. The two leaders are also committed to enhancing cooperation to address regional and global challenges, including those in the Indo-Pacific regions and Latin America.
4. The two leaders commemorated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and noted with satisfaction the numerous celebratory events organized by public and private sectors, in the political, economic and cultural areas of the two countries. The two leaders also acknowledged the substantial progress and objectives achieved in a broad area of the bilateral cooperation under the "Partnership for Peace, Growth, and Innovation", announced in Tokyo on the 3rd of October 2013.
5. In order to further develop the bilateral relations, the two leaders decided to elevate the bilateral relationship to a *Strategic Partnership*. This Partnership will address common challenges and opportunities in the fields of political and diplomatic cooperation, security, economy and innovation and people-to-people exchanges through culture, education, sports and tourism.

Political and Diplomatic Cooperation

6. The two leaders decided to strengthen political cooperation by promoting regular meetings and dialogues, including enhancing friendly exchanges in various forms between the governments bilaterally and in multilateral fora. The two leaders also welcomed friendly exchanges between legislative bodies as well as local authorities.

7. In this regard, the two leaders stressed the importance and continuity of political consultations, including at senior and high levels, as well as through the Embassies of Japan and Spain, particularly in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

International and Multilateral Cooperation

8. The two leaders recognized that Japan and Spain share a common responsibility to ensure international peace and security, the rules-based multilateral order, the promotion of free and open trade, advancement of women's empowerment and gender equality and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals based on the concept of human security.
9. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement, which will serve as a legal basis for promoting cooperation on matters of mutual interest in a wide range of areas, between Japan and the EU as well as its Member States which share values and principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for strengthening the long-lasting strategic partnership between them. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment toward effective implementation of the Agreement.
10. The two leaders reiterated the importance of full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in addressing climate change and expressed their determination to take ambitious climate actions through reducing greenhouse gas emissions while stimulating innovation to reach a global carbon-neutral economy in the second half of the century.
11. The two leaders acknowledged the importance of effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 for substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses of lives, livelihood and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. They will continue to make joint efforts in mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in development.
12. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fighting protectionism, including all unfair trade practices, and to striving to ensure a level playing field, based on a vision of free trade that benefits all of our citizens. The two leaders also reaffirmed their support for the rules-based multilateral trading system and share the need to reform the World Trade Organization (WTO). The two leaders shared the view that they, along with other WTO members, will cooperate to ensure the effective enforcement of trade rules and their improvement, along with the negotiating, monitoring and dispute settlement functions of the WTO. In this regard, the two leaders encouraged the ongoing WTO initiative by like-minded members on e-commerce.
13. The two leaders concurred in the urgent need to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The two leaders shared the importance of bilateral dialogue on this matter, and reaffirmed their intention to continue cooperation in the framework of the United Nations.
14. The two leaders shared the importance of ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and other relevant international law in all circumstances, especially during conflicts,

and are committed to continuing working together in the development and implementation of humanitarian diplomacy through initiatives such as UNSC Resolution (UNSCR) 2286 on protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

15. The two leaders stressed the importance of further cooperation in international economic forums, including the G20, which will be held under the Japanese presidency during 2019, to which Spain reassured its support.

International Peace and Security

16. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to contributing to peace and security in the international community.
17. The two leaders are committed to strengthening the security and defense cooperation including through working level discussions as well as port visits, based on the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Spain, signed in 2014. The two leaders welcomed the success of the first Japan-Spain Defense Vice-Ministerial meeting in July 2018, which contributed to the strengthening of defense ties between the two countries.
18. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the relevant UNSCRs and committed themselves to the realization of the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and all ballistic missiles in accordance with relevant UNSCRs. The two leaders emphasized the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.
19. The two leaders emphasized the importance of international order based on the rule of law, and expressed their serious concern over and strong opposition to any unilateral action that increase tensions or change the status quo by use of force or coercion. In this regard, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a rules-based order in the maritime domain based on the principles of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including respect for freedom of navigation and overflight, and to the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes in accordance with international law including through diplomatic and legal means.
20. The two leaders reaffirmed that a free and open maritime order based on international law is an important pillar of the stability and prosperity of the international community. The two leaders confirmed that it is of mutual benefit to work together to maintain and promote a free and open maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region. In this regard, the two leaders shared the view of realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific. The two leaders reconfirmed the importance of promoting quality infrastructures based on international standards of transparency, economic efficiency, and financial visibility of recipient countries, with open, fair and sustainable access for enhanced regional connectivity.
21. The two leaders emphasized the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a cornerstone of international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The two leaders confirmed that they will work together to strengthen the NPT

regime by concrete and practical measures based on cooperation between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states and cooperate for a successful outcome of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. The two leaders further confirmed that they will also collaborate on other non-proliferation and disarmament issues, such as the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the early commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

22. The two leaders shared grave concern for the repeated use of chemical weapons, an unacceptable violation of bedrock principles of the modern multilateral system and thus an international crime of the utmost gravity, for which there is no possible impunity. The two leaders recognized the importance of strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), whose contribution to global peace and security is outstanding. The two leaders decided to strengthen the non-proliferation regime against these weapons, including by reinforcing the mandate of the OPCW as regards investigations of attacks and their attribution.

Economic Cooperation

23. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, at the Japan-EU summit in Tokyo on the 17th July 2018, which will create a free and advanced economic zone covering over 600 million people. This Agreement will strengthen bilateral economic relations through boosting trade and investment between Japan and the EU. The two leaders are also committed to cooperating toward an early entry into force of the Agreement.
24. The two leaders expressed their determination to reinforce private and public economic and industrial relations between Japan and Spain, and in this regard encouraged full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Industrial Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness of the Kingdom of Spain, signed in 2017. The two leaders welcomed the on-going cooperation between Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and Instituto Español de Comercio Exterior (ICEX) to facilitate bilateral trade and investment, including sharing information to promote cooperation between Japanese and Spanish corporations in third markets, mutual support for business delegations to promote investment in each country and encouraging the development of start-ups. The two leaders also recognized the enormous potential for further cooperation in trade and investment, both bilaterally and in third markets, and welcomed the establishment of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Japan. The two leaders also welcomed the very positive work undertaken by the Japan-Spain Business Cooperation Committee.
25. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the new Convention between the two countries for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.

Science, Technology and Innovation

26. The two leaders expressed their intention to continue promoting cooperation in a wide range of fields, such as science and technology, research and innovation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and to increase areas of collaboration on issues of mutual interest, based on the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Spain on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed in 2010.
27. The two leaders stressed the importance of a stronger coordination to address global healthcare challenges. In the field of medical research and development, the two leaders expressed their intention to further promote the cooperation based on the Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development and State Secretariat for Research, Development and Innovation of Spain on Scientific Cooperation, signed in 2017. The two leaders welcomed the selection of “Nanomedicine” as a prior research area between the two organizations to further strengthen research and development cooperation between scientists of the two countries in the field of medical research and development.
28. In the field of astronomy the two leaders confirmed their intention to continue collaborating in additional lines to those carried out with the “Agreement between the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research the University of Tokyo and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias on the Installation and the Operation of Four 23M Cherenkov Telescopes at the Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory”.
29. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction that Spain, in particular, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, has been participating in European Interest Group - Connecting and Coordinating European Research and Technology Development with Japan (the EIG CONCERT-Japan), and cooperating with Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) to support and enhance cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation between Japan and Europe.

Culture, Education, Sports, People-to-People Exchanges and Tourism cooperation

30. Recognizing the importance of developing the air transport market between Japan and Spain, the two leaders welcomed the amendment of the Annex to the Agreement between Japan and Spain for Air Services signed in Madrid on 18th of March 1980. This amendment will allow the designated airlines in this market to freely select the origin and destination cities, as well as the possible intermediate and subsequent stops, for the air services between Japan and Spain.
31. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction for the consolidation of relations in the area of air transport and expressed their intention to continue promoting air connectivity between the two countries.
32. The two leaders expressed their intention to further promote bilateral cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges including through holding cultural events and festivals, promoting tourism and utilizing the Agreement regarding the working holiday scheme, signed in 2017. In this regard, the two leaders acknowledged the important role of the

Japan Foundation and the Instituto Cervantes in promoting mutual understanding through cultural events and providing opportunities to learn the Japanese and Spanish languages. From this perspective, both countries will explore new means of cooperation in the field of language education in both educational systems, in order to facilitate the implementation of the abovementioned plan.

33. The two leaders congratulated each other for the excellent progress of tourism in their countries and highlighted the considerable increase in reciprocal tourist flows, as well as its importance in fostering contacts between both societies and deepening mutual knowledge. In this sense, the two leaders considered that the implementation of Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Tourism between the Japan Tourism Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda of the Kingdom of Spain signed in 2017, the intensification of air connectivity between two countries and the recent opening of Japan's National Tourism Office will contribute to increase the flow of tourists between Japan and Spain and expand existing tourist relations, supporting the development of sustainable tourism.
34. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to working for the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, which will provide many opportunities for the two countries to enhance cooperation in the field of sports through the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Sports between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology of Japan and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain, signed in March 2017. The two leaders welcomed the active participation of Spanish Olympic and Paralympic teams in the "Host Town Initiative".
35. The two leaders acknowledged the importance of the Japan-Spain symposium in November 2018 in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan and the promotion of the exchange of knowledge between civil societies of both countries, as well as the need to foster contact and collaboration between Japanese and Spanish think tanks.
36. The two leaders welcomed a holding of the Joint Symposium of Japanese and Spanish universities to be held in Salamanca, Spain in November 2018 especially on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain. The two leaders shared the importance of the event to further reinforce the academic exchanges between the two countries.