

# National Security Strategy of Japan

December 2022

## I Purpose

- ✓ The international order is now at stake with serious challenges. we are in an era where confrontation and cooperation are intricately intertwined in international relations.
- ✓ Japan's security environment is as severe and complex as it has ever been since the end of WWII. In the vicinity of Japan, military buildups are rapidly advancing, coupled with mounting pressures by unilaterally changing the status quo by force.
- ✓ Cross-border cyberattacks and spread of disinformation are constantly taking place, thereby further blurring the boundary between contingency and peacetime.
- ✓ The scope of national security has expanded to include those fields previously considered non-military such as economic, and thus the boundary between military and non-military fields is no longer clear-cut either.
- ✓ Japan will protect its national interest by taking a panoramic view of the diverse dimensions of international relations as a whole, and by taking full advantage of comprehensive national power.
- ✓ From this standpoint, the Government of Japan sets forth the National Security Strategy as its supreme national security policy document.
- ✓ The strategic guidance and policies under this Strategy will dramatically transform Japan's national security policy after the end of WWII from the aspect of its execution.

## II. Japan's National Interests

- ✓ Japan will maintain its sovereignty and independence, defend its territorial integrity, and secure the safety of life, person, and properties of its nationals. Japan will ensure its survival while maintaining its own peace and security grounded in freedom and democracy and preserving its rich culture and traditions. Furthermore, Japan and its nationals will continue to strive so that Japan and its nationals are respected and favorably regarded around the world.
- ✓ Japan will achieve the prosperity of Japan and its nationals through economic growth, thereby consolidating its own peace and security. And, while working to realize Japan's economic prosperity, Japan will maintain and strengthen an open and stable international economic order and achieve an international environment in which Japan and other countries can coexist and prosper together.
- ✓ Japan will maintain and protect universal values, such as freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights and the rule of law, and international order based on international law. In particular, Japan will maintain and develop a free and open international order, especially in the Indo-Pacific region where Japan is situated.

### III. Fundamental Principles Concerning Japan's National Security

- ✓ Japan will maintain the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on international cooperation. The primary responsibility for defending Japan lies with itself. Japan will squarely face the ever-changing security environment by decisively taking on necessary reforms and reinforcing our national security capabilities and roles.
- ✓ Japan will execute its security policy in a manner that maintains and upholds universal values. As one of the most mature and stable advanced democratic countries in the world, Japan will strive to maintain and uphold universal values and principles in cooperation with other countries and lead the international community by example.
- ✓ Japan will adhere to the basic policy of maintaining an exclusively national defense-oriented policy and observing the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.
- ✓ The Japan-U.S. alliance will remain the cornerstone of Japan's national security policy.
- ✓ Japan will attach importance to coexistence and coprosperity alongside other countries, cooperation with like-minded countries, and multilateral cooperation.

## IV. Security Environment Surrounding Japan and Japan's National Security Challenges

### 1. Global Security Environment and Challenges

The international community has consistently gone through rapid changes, in conjunction with the center of gravity for global power shifting to the Indo-Pacific region and some states are accelerating actions to challenge the international order.

- ✓ Unilateral changes of the status quo by force and such attempts against territorial sovereignty.
- ✓ Increasingly serious risks in cyber, maritime, space, and electromagnetic domains.
- ✓ Expansion of importance in economic security. Attempts of some nations to expand their own influence by economically coercing other nations.
- ✓ Strong leadership is being lost in the global governance structure at large. The international community is presented with greater difficulties to rally together in taking on common challenges such as climate change

(Continue on page 5)

## IV. Security Environment Surrounding Japan and Japan's National Security Challenges (2)

### 2. Security Environment and Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region

Guided by [the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific \(FOIP\)](#), in the Indo-Pacific region, Japan has the vital importance of striving to realize a free and open international order based on the rule of law and securing the regional peace and stability.

#### ● China's Activities in the Area of Security

- ✓ Extensively and rapidly enhancing its military power without sufficient transparency.
- ✓ Intensifying its attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force in the ECS/SCS.
- ✓ Strengthening its strategic ties with Russia and attempting to challenge the international order.
- ✓ Taking advantage of other countries' dependence on China.
- ✓ Not denying the possibility of using military force. intensifying its military activities in the sea and airspace surrounding Taiwan.

➤ China's current external stance, military activities, and other activities have become a matter of serious concern for Japan and the international community, and present an unprecedented and the greatest strategic challenge in ensuring the peace and security of Japan and the peace and stability of the international community, as well as in strengthening the international order based on the rule of law, to which Japan should respond with its comprehensive national power and in cooperation with its ally, like-minded countries and others.

(Continue on page 6)

## IV. Security Environment Surrounding Japan and Japan's National Security Challenges (3)

### 2. Security Environment and Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region

#### ● North Korea's Activities in the Area of Security

- ✓ Making rapid progress in its missile-related technologies and operational capabilities.
- ✓ Intending to bolster its nuclear capability both in quality and in quantity at a maximum speed.
- ✓ The issue of abductions by North Korea is a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens.
- North Korea's military activities pose an even more grave and imminent threat to Japan's national security than ever before.

#### ● Russia's Activities in the Area of Security

- ✓ Aggression against Ukraine.
- ✓ Strengthening its armaments in Northern Territories.
- ✓ Doubling down on strategic coordination with China.
- Russia's external and military activities and others have shaken the very foundation of the international order, and are perceived as the most significant and direct threat to security in the European region. In addition, Russia's external and military activities and others in the Indo-Pacific region, including Japan, together with its strategic coordination with China, are of strong security concern.

## V. National Security Objectives of Japan

- ✓ Japan will continue to be a nation capable of protecting its sovereignty and independence, autonomously determining its domestic and foreign policies, and defending its territory and the safety of life, person, and the properties of its nationals and deterring contingencies. If by any chance a threat should reach Japan, Japan will disrupt and defeat the threat and minimize the damage caused, and bring it to an end in a manner favorable to protecting its national interests
- ✓ Japan will proactively ensure, through implementing its security policy, an international environment in which our own economy can grow. Japan will work to achieve a virtuous cycle of security and economic growth. Japan will ensure self-reliance of its economic structure, as well as advantages over other countries and ultimately indispensability of its technologies.
- ✓ Japan will achieve a new balance in international relations, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. Japan will prevent emergence of situations in which any one state can unilaterally change the status quo easily, and redouble efforts to secure a stable, predictable, free and open international order based on the rule of law.
- ✓ Japan will generate an environment in which the international community can coexist and coprosper in multilateral cooperation.



## VI. Strategic Approaches Prioritized by Japan

Japan will implement strategic approaches, harnessing its comprehensive national power (diplomatic, defense, economic, technological, and intelligence capabilities).

### (1) Develop Efforts Centered on Diplomacy to Prevent Crises, Actively Create a Peaceful and Stable International Environment, and Strengthen a Free and Open International Order

- i) Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance
- ii) Maintaining and Developing a Free and Open International Order and Strengthen Ties with its Ally and Like-minded countries
- iii) Strengthening Diplomacy with Japan's Neighboring Countries and Regions as well as Efforts toward Resolution of Various Issues of Concerns, including Territorial Issues
- iv) Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation
- v) International Counter-Terrorism
- vi) Climate Change Measures
- vii) Strategic Use of ODA and Other International Cooperation (including a new cooperation framework in view of strengthening security capabilities and deterrence of like-minded countries)
- viii) Promoting People-to-People Exchanges

(Continue on page 9)

## VI. Strategic Approaches Prioritized by Japan (2)

### (2) Strengthen Japan's Defense Architecture

- ✓ **Fundamentally Reinforcing Defense Capabilities as the Last Guarantee of National Security**
  - i) Strengthen its standoff defense capabilities and unmanned asset defense capabilities besides cross domain operational capabilities, ii) **Possess counterstrike capabilities**, iii) Take necessary measures to make the level of Japan's budget, for both the fundamental reinforcement of defense capabilities and complementary initiatives, **reach 2% of the current GDP** in FY 2027, iv) Strengthen the coordination and cooperation between SDF and JCG including the Minister of Defense's control over the JCG in the event of an emergency.
- ✓ **Coordinating with Reinforced Comprehensive Defense Architecture** (research and development, public infrastructure development, cybersecurity and international cooperation with like-minded countries)
- ✓ **The Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, its Implementation Guidelines, and other systems are to be considered for revisions** in order to promote smooth transfer of defense equipment and technology of high security significance. Necessity, requirements, and transparency of the related procedures for transfer of defense equipment and technology will be under adequate consideration, while maintaining the three principles themselves. Japan will provide various forms of assistance to smoothly promote such transfer.
- ✓ Reinforcing Defense Production and Technology Base, and strengthening the foundation for SDF personnel.

(Continue on page 10)

## VI. Strategic Approaches Prioritized by Japan (2)

### (3) Deepening Security Cooperation with the United States

- ✓ Further enhancing deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, including extended deterrence by the U.S.

### (4) Strengthen Efforts to Seamlessly Protect Japan in All Directions

#### i) Cybersecurity

- ✓ Improving response capabilities in the field of cybersecurity.
- ✓ Introducing active cyber defense and advance efforts to consider to realize necessary measures.
- ✓ In order to realize and promote these efforts, a new organization which will comprehensively coordinate policies in the field of cybersecurity in a centralized manner.
- ✓ Working on legislation and strengthen operation.

#### ii) Maritime Security and Maritime Law Enforcement Capabilities

- ✓ Significantly reinforcing maritime law enforcement capabilities.
- ✓ Strengthening the coordination and cooperation between JCG and SDF, including the Minister of Defense's control over the JCG in the event of an emergency.

#### iii) Space Security

- ✓ Strengthening cooperation between JAXA and SDF and utilize Japan's civilian space technology, while promoting the use of the space domain by the SDF and JCG.
- ✓ Put together the Government's concept and reflect it on the Basic Plan on Space Policy.

(Continue on page 11)

## VI. Strategic Approaches Prioritized by Japan (2)

### (4) Strengthening Efforts to Seamlessly Protect Japan in All Directions

#### iv) Enhancing **Technical Capabilities** and Proactively Capitalizing on Outcomes of Research and Development

- ✓ Establishing a whole-of-government mechanism to match research and development needs based on the views of MOD with the technological seeds possessed by relevant ministries and agencies.
- ✓ Promoting the Key and Advanced Technology R&D through Cross Community Collaboration Program.

#### v) Strengthening **Intelligence Capabilities**

- ✓ Significantly enhancing our information-gathering capabilities. In particular, enhancing and strengthening the structure for collecting with regard to human intelligence.
- ✓ Establishing a mechanism to aggregate information in an integrated manner.
- ✓ Establishing a new structure to aggregate and analyze information on disinformation from the perspective of bolstering the ability to respond to information warfare in the cognitive domain.

#### vi) Reinforcing Response Capabilities within Japan with Contingencies in Mind

- ✓ Establishing a cross-governmental mechanism to develop and enhance the functions of public infrastructures based on the needs of SDF and JCG.
- ✓ Ensuring smooth activities of SDF and U.S. forces.
- ✓ Taking measures to secure critical infrastructures such as nuclear power plants.

#### vii) Reinforcing Architecture for the Protection of Japanese Nationals

#### viii) Protecting of Japanese Nationals and Others Oversea

#### ix) Secure Resources Essential for Japan's National Security including Energy and Food

(Continue on page 12)

## VI. Strategic Approaches Prioritized by Japan (3)

### (5) Promoting Economic Security Policies to Achieve Autonomous Economic Prosperity

- ✓ Enhancing Japan's self-reliance and secure the advantage and indispensability concerning our technologies.
- ✓ Securing stable supply for critical goods including rare earth.
- ✓ Examining to bolster Japan's information security, including security clearance.

### (6) Maintain and Strengthen International Economic Order based on Free, Fair, and equitable Rules

- ✓ Enhancing Japan's own measures to counter against unfair trade practices and economic coercion.
- ✓ Maintaining the high standards of CPTPP.
- ✓ Carrying out development finance in a transparent and fairmanner.

### (7) Global Efforts for Coexistence and Coprosperity in the International Community

- ✓ Strengthening cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations.
- ✓ Expanding cooperation in the areas such as measures against infectious diseases, humanitarian assistance, respect for human rights and international peace cooperation.

## VII. Domestic Base that should be Strengthened to Support Japan's National Security

1. Strengthening the Economic and Fiscal Bases
2. Reinforcing the Social Base
3. Enhancing the Intellectual Base

## VIII. Duration, Evaluation, and Revision of this Strategy

- ✓ The Strategy will be executed approximately over the coming decade. Should Japan expect any significant changes including in the security environments, it will make necessary revision.

## IX. Conclusion

- ✓ Japan will ensure its security on the basis of comprehensive national power in areas where the international community is in confrontation. In areas where the international community should engage in cooperation, by contrast, we will continue to fulfill a leading and constructive role in resolving a broad array of issues.
- ✓ Japan's action in this way worldwide will further enhance its presence and credibility in the international arena and expand the circle of like-minded countries and others, thereby leading to improve the security environment surrounding Japan.
- ✓ Even standing at this crossroads between a world of hope and a world of adversity and distrust amidst the most severe and complex post-war security environment, Japan, blessed with a stable democracy, the established rule of law, a mature economy, and rich culture, will advocate policies grounded in universal values and then lead the way in undertaking efforts to reinforce the international order with steadfast resolve.