

Section 3 Outline of the National Security Strategy

1 National Security Council

As the security environment surrounding Japan grows increasingly severe, Japan faces mounting security challenges it needs to address. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to carry forward policies pertaining to national security from a strategic perspective under strong political leadership with the Prime Minister at its core. For this reason, the National Security Council was established in the Cabinet in December 2013 to provide a platform to discuss important matters with regard to Japan's security. Since its establishment, the Council has met 147 times (as of the end of May 2017) and has been serving as a control tower for foreign and defense policies. The National Security Strategy (NSS) and the National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) are also deliberated and approved in this National Security Council.

The National Security Secretariat established within the Cabinet Secretariat provides constant support to the National Security Council as its secretariat. The Secretariat is also tasked with planning and designing,

and overall coordination of basic guidelines and important matters with regard to foreign and defense policies pertaining to national security. Administrative organs that are deeply involved in policies support the Secretariat with both personnel and information. The Secretariat has many civilians and uniformed personnel of the MOD with concurrent posts offering ideas essential to designing policies and data such as global military trends in a timely manner.

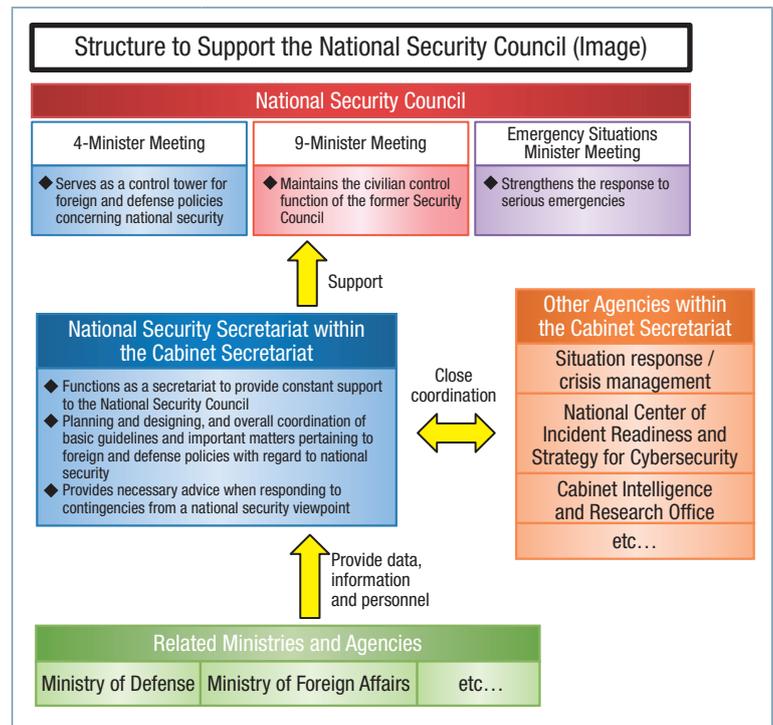
The enhanced ability to plan and design national security policies has led to systematic alignment of Japan's national security, and to providing a direction for policies with regard to new security challenges. Furthermore, individual defense policies are formulated and efforts to expedite decision-making are made based on the basic guidelines discussed at the National Security Council, and this is contributing significantly to improved planning and execution of policies within the MOD.

[Q See](#) Fig. II-1-3-1 (Organization of the National Security Council)



A scene from a National Security Council meeting held upon North Korea's ballistic missile launch
[photo courtesy of the Cabinet Public Relations Office]

Fig. II-1-3-1 Organization of the National Security Council



2 National Security Strategy

1 Japan's National Security Policy Framework

The NSS approved by the National Security Council and the Cabinet in December of 2013 represents Japan's first-ever basic policy on national security with a focus on diplomatic affairs and defense policy. The NSS defines approaches that Japan should follow based on a long-term view of its national interests. It replaces the Basic Policy on National Defense, which had served as the basis for Japan's defense policies theretofore.

The NDPG, which was established based on the NSS, defines basic policies for Japan's future defense, the role of its defense capabilities, and objectives for specific SDF equipment. The NDPG was formulated with a medium-to long-term outlook because the acquisition of defense equipment and the establishment of troop operational systems cannot be accomplished overnight and requires many years of planning. The NSS and NDPG are mainly designed for the next decade or so.

The Medium Term Defense Program (MTDP) specifies a maximum budget and the amount of mainstay defense equipment to be acquired over the subsequent five-year period in order to achieve the defense capability targets defined in the NDPG. The fiscal year budget is drawn on the MTDP substantiated as projects, and the necessary expenses for each fiscal year will be appropriated based on relevant situations.

To date, the NDPG has contained mention of nationwide basic security policies focusing on defense policy to a certain extent. The NSS carries with it great meaning as the definitive statement of the Government's basic policy on national security, with a focus on diplomatic affairs and defense policy.

[Q See](#) Fig. II-1-3-2 (Relations among NSS, NDPG, MTDP and Annual Budget)

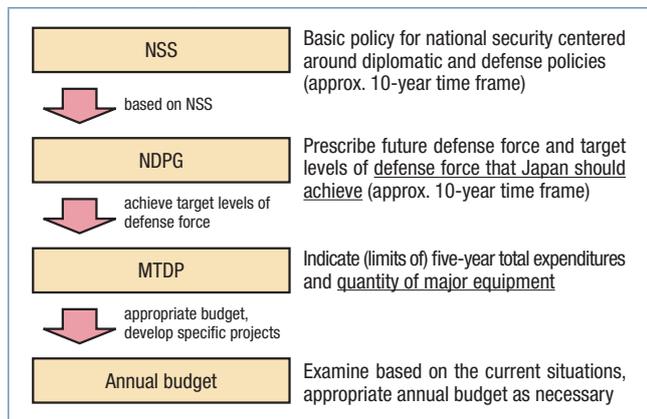
2 Outline of the National Security Strategy: Proactive Contribution to Peace based on the Principle of International Cooperation

Japan is committed to continuing the path it has followed to date as a peace-loving nation and, as a major player in international politics and business, it also seeks its own security as well as peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region from its stance as a **proactive contributor to peace** based on the principle of international cooperation. Japan will contribute more proactively than ever before to the peace, security and prosperity of the international community.

In achieving the aforementioned fundamental principle of national security, the NSS stipulates national interests and goals, and presents a strategic approach that needs to be employed.

[Q See](#) Fig. II-1-3-3 (Outline of Japan's Strategic Approach to National Security) Reference 5 (National Security Strategy (Outline))

Fig. II-1-3-2 Relations among NSS, NDPG, MTDP and Annual Budget



Keyword Proactive contributor to peace

A fundamental principle of national security introduced in the NSS, which refers to Japan's commitment to contribute to ensuring international peace, stability and prosperity even more proactively and in a manner proportional to Japan's national power.

Fig. II-1-3-3

Outline of Japan's Strategic Approach to National Security

Fundamental Principle of National Security = Proactive Contribution to Peace Based on the Principle of International Cooperation		
National Interests	◇ Maintain Japan's peace and security, and ensure its survival ◇ Enhance Japan's peace and security ◇ Maintain and uphold international order based on universal values and rules	
Objectives	◇ Reinforce necessary deterrence and prevent direct threats to Japan ◇ Improve the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region, and prevent the emergence of and reduce threats through strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhancing the trust and cooperative relationships between Japan and its partners within and outside of the region ◇ Improve the global security environment and build a prosperous international community	
Japan's Strategic Approach to National Security		
1	Strengthening and Expanding Japan's Capabilities and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reinforce diplomacy ● Build a comprehensive defense architecture ● Strengthen efforts for the protection of Japan's territorial integrity ● Ensure maritime security ● Strengthen cybersecurity ● Strengthen measures against international terrorism ● Enhance intelligence capabilities ● Defense equipment and technology cooperation ● Ensure the stable use of outer space and promote its use for security purposes ● Strengthen technological capabilities
2	Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further strengthen the security and defense cooperation between Japan and the U.S. ● Ensure a stable presence of the U.S. Forces
3	Strengthening Diplomacy and Security Cooperation with Japan's Partners for Peace and Stability in the International Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance the cooperative relations with the ROK, Australia, ASEAN countries, and India ● Establish a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests" with China ● Encourage North Korea to take concrete actions to achieve a comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern, such as the abduction, nuclear and missiles issues ● Advance cooperation with Russia in all areas ● Actively utilize multilateral and trilateral cooperation frameworks ● Cooperate with partners of the Asia-Pacific region ● Cooperate with countries outside the Asia-Pacific region
4	Proactive Contribution to International Efforts for Peace and Stability of the International Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen diplomacy at the United Nations ● Strengthen the rule of law ● Lead international efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation ● Promote international peace cooperation ● Promote international cooperation against global terrorism
5	Strengthening Cooperation Based on Universal Values to Resolve Global Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share universal values; address development issues and realize "human security"; cooperate with human resource development efforts in developing countries; maintain and strengthen the free trade system; respond to energy and environmental issues; enhance people-to-people exchanges
6	Strengthening the Domestic Foundation that Supports National Security and Promoting Domestic and Global Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain and enhance defense production and technological bases ● Strengthen communication of information ● Social base ● Strengthen the intellectual base