November 25, 2026
Ministry of Defense Japan

Joint Press Statement on the Japan-Singapore Defense Ministers' Meeting

1. On November 25, 2026, in Tokyo, Japanese Minister of Defense Koizumi Shinjiro and Singaporean Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing held a meeting and discussed the regional security environment and Japan-Singapore defense cooperation.

2. On the occasion of Minister Chan's introductory visit to Japan and against the backdrop of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between both countries, the two Ministers welcomed the steady progress in bilateral security and defense cooperation under the "Strategic Partnership" between Japan and Singapore, which was established in March this year. With a view to strengthening cooperation between the respective defense authorities, the two Ministers have deepened discussions through frequent defense minister's meetings and maintained close communication. There has also been a healthy cadence of exchanges between the respective forces at the leadership level, with the Chief of Staff, Japan Joint Staff's introductory visit to Singapore and a working visit to Japan by the Chief of Navy of the Republic of Singapore in August. The two Ministers also look forward to welcoming Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces for his introductory visit to Japan.

3. During the meeting on 25 November, the two Ministers reaffirmed the strong commitment of both countries to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the respective defense authorities, and address regional and global challenges together as like-minded partners. Minister Koizumi took this opportunity to explain Japan's defense policy, including the current status of Japan's ongoing efforts toward the revision of its three strategic documents.

4. Amid an increasingly complex global and regional security environment, the two Ministers affirmed their shared interest in regional peace and stability, including maritime security. The two Ministers also reiterated the vital importance of open sea lanes to both countries. Against this backdrop, they

concurred on accelerating efforts to strengthen cooperation by bringing together the knowledge and technologies of both countries and focusing their efforts on shared challenges.

5. The two Ministers confirmed that they would further strengthen cooperation between their respective naval services and promote initiatives that contribute to information sharing and collaboration to enhance maritime security. They concurred on further developing Exercise SINGAPAN, the first bilateral exercise between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Republic of Singapore Navy, conducted this year, and conducting it on a regular basis. They also concurred on advancing consideration toward conducting submarine rescue exercises.

6. Building on the cooperation developed between Japan and the Singapore-based Network of ASEAN CBR Defence Experts, the two Ministers welcomed the co-hosting of the first Japan-ASEAN tabletop exercise (TTX) in Singapore in December, as well as the conduct of the Subject Matter Expert Exchange between the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the Singapore Army in the field of CBRN. Minister Chan also invited the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's special operations forces to visit Singapore's next-generation smart urban military training facility, SAFTI City, and the two Ministers concurred on realizing the visit at an early opportunity.

7. The two Ministers also shared the view that given both forces' shared manpower challenges, it would be useful to collaborate on ways to advance labor-saving and unmanned solutions through the use of technology, including but not limited to, under the Republic of Singapore Air Force's "Smart Air Base" initiative.

8. Furthermore, the two Ministers welcomed the progress in defense equipment and technology cooperation achieved since the signing of the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology in 2023. The two Ministers also concurred on holding the second Japan-Singapore Defence Industry Day on the occasion of DSEI Japan 2027, scheduled for April next year and confirmed that they would take advantage of such opportunities to further deepen bilateral discussions on defense equipment

and technology cooperation.

9. The two Ministers affirmed that Japan-ASEAN cooperation through the ADMM-Plus framework plays an important role in promoting regional peace and stability. They also discussed how Singapore, as ASEAN's current Country Coordinator for Japan, would continue to support the strong cooperative relationship between Japan and ASEAN. Minister Chan reiterated Singapore's hope that Japan would play a constructive role in regional peace and security. Minister Koizumi, noting that Singapore will assume the ASEAN Chairmanship next year, emphasized the important role of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus in promoting regional peace and stability and expressed Japan's intent to extend its full support to their efforts. In this regard, the two Ministers confirmed their intention to work closely together to ensure the success of the ADMM-Plus next year, including by working with other ADMM and ADMM-Plus countries on ways to further develop the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) to address shared security challenges.