(Press Release)

November 20, 2026
Japan Ministry of Defense

Japan-Chile Defense Ministerial Meeting

On November 20, 2026, Minister of Defense Koizumi held the first Japan-Chile Defense Ministerial Meeting with Chilean Minister of National Defense Barros, who was visiting Japan. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

(1) At the outset, Minister Koizumi stated that Japan and Chile, as neighbors across the Pacific, are important partners with a long history of friendship and shared fundamental values such as democracy and the rule of law. He expressed his pleasure at Minister Barros's visit to Japan, the first by a Chilean Minister of National Defense, and at the opportunity to hold the first Japan-Chile Defense Ministerial Meeting. Minister Koizumi also expressed his intention to further advance defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries through this meeting, to which Minister Barros expressed his concurrence. Minister Barros highlighted the significance of the 130th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Chile and Japan, to be commemorated in 2027. He expressed that the Pacific Ocean does not separate the two countries, but rather unites them as neighbors across the Pacific, and that Chile and Japan are not only longstanding friends but also partners sharing fundamental values and principles.

(2) The two Ministers signed the Letter of Intent (LOI) on Japan-Chile Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with a view to further advancing defense cooperation between the two countries. The LOI sets out the future direction for deepening bilateral defense cooperation, particularly in the areas of cooperation between the maritime services, education and personnel exchanges, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), and defense equipment and technology cooperation.

(3) The two Ministers had a frank exchange of views on the increasingly complex and uncertain security environment and shared their perspectives. They reaffirmed the importance of upholding and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law and opposing unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force. They also concurred on further deepening defense cooperation between Japan and Chile for peace and stability in the Pacific.

(4) Specifically, the two Ministers welcomed the progress in cooperation between their maritime services, including reciprocal port calls, joint exercises, and the launch of the first-ever Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks between the Chilean Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. They also confirmed their intention to further advance cooperation by making

use of opportunities for future high-level visits.

(5) Minister Koizumi proposed inviting Chilean officer cadets for the first time to the International Cadets Conference at the National Defense Academy of Japan, with a view to developing personnel who will support future defense cooperation between the two countries. Minister Barros welcomed the proposal and expressed his intention to have Chile participate. The two Ministers also concurred on promoting cooperation in a broader range of areas, including through Chilean participation in a JSDF field training exercise in the area of HA/DR.

(6) With regard to defense equipment and technology cooperation, the two Ministers shared the view that it is important to deepen mutual understanding, primarily between their respective defense equipment authorities, regarding the two countries' policies, systems, and defense industrial bases. They also confirmed their intention to explore the potential for concrete cooperation in the future by making use of opportunities including DSEI Japan.

(7) The two Ministers noted the historical significance of Minister Barros's visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and reaffirmed that the ultimate purpose of their respective defense institutions is to contribute to peace and stability, both in the Pacific and around the world. They also noted that Australia, which Minister Barros visited prior to his visit to Japan, is connected with both Japan and Chile through the Pacific, and that the three countries share a common interest in maintaining peace and stability in the region. On this basis, they exchanged views on the potential for cooperation among Japan, Chile, and Australia.