

(Press Release)

June 22, 2021
Japan Ministry of Defense

Japan-Germany Defense Ministers' Video Teleconference

On June 22, commencing at 2:00 p.m. for approximately 60 minutes, Minister KISHI held a video teleconference with German Federal Minister of Defence, Kramp-Karrenbauer.

1 The two ministers exchanged views on regional security issues in the Indo-Pacific. Especially, regarding the East China Sea and the South China Sea, they confirmed to oppose any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion or any activities that escalate tension regarding the situation. In this context, they shared the view on the deep concerns over the Chinese Coast Guard Law.

2 Furthermore, the two ministers strongly condemned the ballistic missile launches by North Korea as a violation of relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and a threat to regional peace and security, and affirmed that ballistic missile launches by North Korea constitute a serious issue for the entire international community. On that note, the two ministers affirmed that they will continue to collaborate closely to fully implement UNSC resolutions for achieving the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of North Korea.

3 Regarding the deployment of a German Navy frigate to the Indo-Pacific region, the two ministers affirmed their will to continue their coordination in order to conduct joint trainings and etc. The two ministers also discussed the possibility for Germany to join for the first time in monitoring and surveillance activities against illicit ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea-related vessels on the occasion of the deployment of the German Navy frigate, and affirmed to continue cooperation for its realization. Noting the speech made by Minister Kishi on June 17 at European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence, the two ministers also underscored the importance of Japan-Germany cooperation in order to solidify the commitments of EU and European nations.

4 The two ministers deepened discussions regarding future Japan-Germany defense cooperation, exchanged views on reinforcing the rules-based international order, including working together to counter disinformation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and affirmed they would continue to work together on these approaches.

5 The two ministers also concurred in maintaining close communication between respective defense authorities and proactively promoting defense cooperation and exchanges to uphold and reinforce the Free and Open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive.

6 The two ministers have affirmed the need for holding a face-to-face meeting at the earliest possible opportunity.