

Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue
Joint Statement

1. The Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD) was held virtually on September 2, 2021. Defense Ministers and the representatives of Japan, Republic of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, France, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Republic of Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Vanuatu (“the Ministers and Representatives”) attended the meeting and welcomed Japan’s initiative to hold the JPIDD for the first time.
2. Building on the partnership that has steadily developed at the summit level under the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process, the Ministers and Representatives emphasized the need to enhance mutual understanding and build confidence among defense authorities in facing regional security challenges.
3. Minister Kishi renewed the commitment of the Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) to upholding and reinforcing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, together with all parties that share such a vision. Minister Kishi expressed Japan’s intention, based on the Pacific Bond (*KIZUNA*) Policy announced at PALM9, to promote cooperation among defense authorities through exchanges, such as JSDF vessel and aircraft visits, and cooperation for human resource development in maritime security and disaster relief, among others. The Ministers and Representatives welcomed Japan’s intent to promote such cooperation.
4. The Ministers and Representatives recognized the potential security challenges posed by the global spread of COVID-19 and affirmed the importance of making efforts to enhance each country’s response capabilities against infectious diseases, by sharing knowledge and lessons learned from infectious disease control measures taken by the defense authorities.
5. The Ministers and Representatives emphasized the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, and of resolving disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. They also shared the view that it is necessary to continue combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and strengthening maritime law enforcement in the region.
6. Noting the calls of the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now*, as well as climate change and disaster resilience being one of the five priority areas of cooperation of PALM9, the Ministers and Representatives stressed the significance of

enhancing cooperation among defense authorities on disaster risk reduction, especially for building resilience. In this context, Minister Kishi explained the JMOD's recent initiative to establish a "Climate Change Task Force" in JMOD in May 2021, to carry out a study on security challenges resulting from climate change facing the international community.

7. The Ministers and Representatives emphasized the benefits of effective coordination among defense and relevant authorities to enhance the provision of humanitarian assistance/disaster relief in times of crisis triggered by natural disasters in the region.
8. The Ministers and Representatives stressed the importance of achieving North Korea's complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. They affirmed their commitment to fully implementing and enforcing the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions including addressing North Korea's sanctions evading tactics such as illicit "ship-to-ship transfers".
9. The Ministers and Representatives affirmed the importance of their JPIDD partnership. They also affirmed, building on the success of the first JPIDD, the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation in addressing regional security challenges.