

UK-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting
21 January 2015
Joint Statement

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP and the Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, met the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Mr Fumio Kishida, and the Minister of Defence, H.E. Mr Gen Nakatani, in London on 21 January 2015 for the UK-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting.

The Ministers reaffirmed the dynamic strategic partnership between the two countries, as expressed in our Joint Statement on the occasion of Prime Minister Abe's visit to the UK in May 2014. This sets out a strategic vision of deepening cooperation, based on our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and open and transparent markets, in order to make a positive contribution to global prosperity, peace and stability.

Recognising the contribution of both countries to global prosperity and security over the last 70 years, the Ministers reaffirmed their desire to work together to defend and protect the global commons, on the high seas, in cyberspace, and in outer space, and to support an international system based on the rule of law and international norms.

The Ministers reiterated that Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea is a clear violation of international law, and emphasised the two countries' support and respect for the democratic process in Ukraine. The Ministers underlined the need for North Korea to address the international community's legitimate security and human rights concerns, including the abductions issue. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including UNCLOS.

Emphasizing that states should seek to settle disputes by peaceful means, the Ministers pledged to continue to work together in the G7 and other international fora on foreign policy issues, including supporting Ukraine's efforts for political stability and economic development and early conclusion of the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea.

The Ministers discussed current regional and global challenges to the rules-based international system, and the rise of non-traditional security threats. In particular, the Ministers expressed strong indignation at the taking hostage of the two Japanese nationals allegedly by ISIL. In this regard, the UK side expressed strong support, solidarity and readiness to cooperate with Japan. The Ministers strongly condemned the recent terrorist incidents in Paris, and reaffirmed their intention to combat terrorism.

The Ministers noted the importance of a stable security environment for social and economic prosperity, and the threat posed by climate change to global security and prosperity. They affirmed the role of the planned EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement in boosting growth in the global economy, and reiterated support for agreement in principle in 2015.

The Japanese side paid tribute to the UK's global role and contribution to international security, and supported the UK's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. The Japanese side set out its ongoing efforts to develop security legislation under its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace". The UK side set out the progress made in implementing the reforms outlined in its 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review. Recognising the peaceful path taken by Japan since WWII, the UK side welcomed Japan's security reforms and its recent efforts to play a more active role in international efforts to secure peace, stability, and prosperity.

In this context, the Ministers discussed how to operationalise the comprehensive framework for collaboration in the areas of defence and security outlined by Prime Ministers in May 2014, and looked forward to further discussions.