

Japan-Romania Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on the Renewed Partnership between Japan and Romania

On the occasion of the official visit to Japan by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Titus Corlatean, on February 26, 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Fumio Kishida, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Titus Corlatean, reconfirmed the traditional friendship existing between the two countries, appreciated the steady implementation of the 2002 “Joint Statement on Friendship, Co-operation and Partnership between Japan and Romania”, especially the promotion of political dialogue, cooperation in the field of economy, global issues, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and issued the following statement on the promotion of the renewed partnership between the two countries, where new cabinets were formed in December 2012.

1 Renewed partnership

The two sides reconfirmed that Romania, as a member of NATO since 2004 and of the EU since 2007, and Japan share fundamental values, such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law and the market economy, and have been deepening cooperation in a wide range of fields such as political dialogue, economic, cultural, people-to-people exchanges and international issues. The two sides affirmed their will to further develop and deepen this cooperation.

2 Close political dialogue

The two sides confirmed with satisfaction that in recent times there have been several political dialogues including at State Secretary level and affirmed their will to promote them further. On this occasion, the Romanian side reiterated its invitation for the Prime Minister of Japan to visit Romania. The Japanese side received the invitation with profound gratitude and welcomed the interest of the Prime Minister of Romania to visit Japan at a future date.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction that political consultations at high official level have been carried out continuously since 1999. Both sides affirmed their will to hold the 10th round of such political

consultations in Bucharest, in due course during 2013.

3 Promotion of economic relations

(1) Cooperation in the economic field

The Romanian side appreciated that during the past decade, since 2002, when the Joint Statement was issued, the amount of Japanese investment in Romania has increased and contributed significantly to the creation of employment in Romania. The Romanian side expressed its intention to make further efforts to improve the country's investment environment.

The two sides affirmed that intensification of the economic ties, including enhancing bilateral economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment through the Japan-EU EPA is a key to deepen and develop the overall bilateral relationship. The two sides expressed their hope for the further growth of bilateral economic relations which have been developing favorably in recent years.

The Romanian side expressed its high appreciation and deep gratitude to the Japanese side for the Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by Japan to Romania for its democratization and adoption of market economy during the period of its transition. As proof of the gratitude, the Romanian side announced the decision to bestow the name of "Tokyo" on an underground station which is going to be constructed as part of the ODA loan project, "Bucharest International Airport Rail Access Link Project". The Japanese side welcomed the Romanian side's announcement, and the two sides decided to cooperate for the steady implementation of this project.

The two sides affirmed their intention to have dialogues in the fields of environment protection and green energy.

(2) Cooperation in the field of medicine

The two sides affirmed their will to promote their cooperation in the field of medical services and equipment, which could be instrumental to economic competitiveness and improvement of living standards, and in

which Japan has developed high level technologies. The two sides affirmed their will to analyze the possibility of organizing a seminar on Japanese medical services and equipment in Romania, in the near future.

4 Enhancement of the people-to-people and educational exchanges

The two sides acknowledge that trust and mutual understanding between the two countries' nationals provide solid grounds for closer bilateral relations as well as for more substantial Japan-EU ties. The two sides expressed their aspiration to deepen mutual understanding through cultural, educational and scientific exchanges, as well as exchanges between local authorities. The two sides expressed their satisfaction that the Center for Japanese Studies, set up in 2010 at the University of Bucharest will organize an academic symposium on "The Quest of Modernity in Japan", in March 2013.

The two sides also expressed their satisfaction that in September 2011, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, students of the Fukushima University visited Romania upon the invitation of the Romanian Government, and in March 2012, upon the invitation of the Government of Japan, members of the National Authority for Sports and Youth of Romania, the institution that organized the afore-mentioned visit to Romania, came to Japan and shared their views on bilateral youth exchanges with their Japanese counterparts.

The Romanian side expressed its appreciation for the positive decision adopted by the Government of Japan regarding extending the implementation of the provisional measures concerning the waiving of visas for nationals of Romania, until the end of December 2015. The two sides expressed their will to continue to hold bilateral consultations towards the introduction of measures concerning the waiving of visas for nationals of Romania in the future.

5 Global issues

The two sides expressed their grave concern over North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs, including its uranium enrichment

program, and condemned in the strongest terms its nuclear test on 12 February 2013 and missile launches in April and December 2012 as clear violations of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The two sides urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards the denuclearization and other goals as well as to fully implement the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 2087 and the 2005 Six Party Talks Joint Statement. The two sides also expressed their concern over human rights violations in North Korea, and strongly urged North Korea to address without delay the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

The two sides expressed their sincerest condolences for the victims including the two countries' nationals of the terrorist attack to a natural gas plant in East Algeria and recognized that this incident conspicuously demonstrated the possibility that instability in the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel could develop into a direct threat to both Japan and Europe.

The two sides then renewed their commitment to fighting toward the eradication of terrorism, and reconfirmed the necessity of concerted efforts by the entire international community in order to prevent these regions from becoming a hotbed of terrorism.

The two sides affirmed the importance of the UN reform in all its aspects, with a particular emphasis on the reform of the Security Council. The two sides stressed the necessity to improve its effectiveness, transparency and representativeness in order to reflect reality of today's international community. In this respect, the two sides reiterated their support for an expanded Council including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership. In this context, the Romanian side reiterated its support for Japan to become a permanent member of the Security Council.

Based on the recognition that the security of East Asia and Europe are more closely related to each other with the progress of globalization, the two sides, Japan, which works in cooperation with the United States on various global issues including the situation in Asia-Pacific and Romania, a

member of NATO and a participating country in the Missile Defense Project of the United States, shared the awareness of each other's regional security environment and affirmed that they would continue the exchange of views and information on security matters in order to contribute to the peace and prosperity in Asia and Europe.

The two sides sharing the fundamental values reconfirmed the importance of the rule of law and settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

Based on the recognition of the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation, both sides expressed their will to hold bilateral consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation in the future.

The two sides reaffirmed the importance of a dialogue and coordination within the UN system and other international organizations and specialized agencies and their willingness to continue to work together, including on their candidacy for international organizations, both at the regional and multilateral level.

The two sides shared a view that peace and stability in the Western Balkans and the Black Sea region are essential to the peace and stability of Europe as a whole. The two sides confirmed that Romania, as a member of NATO and the European Union having interest in the economic and overall development of the region will cooperate with Japan for the peace and stability of this region. The two sides expressed their satisfaction for the success of the cooperation between the two countries in the framework of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The two sides stressed the importance of the Japan-EU agreement covering political and other cooperation which could contribute to the further development of Japan-Romania relations.

Tokyo, February 26, 2013

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Titus CORLATEAN
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

