

20 October 2016

Dear Friends,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of September Mr Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs who was visiting New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, held a G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting as the Chair for approximately one hour and a half. At this meeting, the Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union issued statements regarding countering terrorism and violent extremism, and recent developments in Asia.

In the statement regarding countering terrorism and violent extremism, the Foreign Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of continuing acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Furthermore, they reaffirmed the importance of international counter-terrorism efforts by the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and other international fora, particularly the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.

Recognising the serious threat to international peace and security posed by the continued targeting of civil aviation, the Foreign Ministers look forward to the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution on Aviation Security. They reconfirmed their determination to work together to prevent terrorist activities, as well as to work together to counter the financing of terrorism. In addition, the Foreign Ministers stressed as the G7 can play a leading role in promoting counterterrorism measures.

The Foreign Ministers also confirmed their commitment to promoting peaceful co-existence, respect for diversity, tolerance and inclusive dialogue as fundamental to preventing the emergence and spread of violent extremism in all its forms, and as such welcome the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The Ministers reiterated their determination to fully implement the G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism adopted at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May. ([Full text of the statement on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism](#))

In the statement regarding recent developments in Asia, reiterate our condemnation in the strongest terms of North Korea's nuclear test on 9 September, which was conducted only 8 months after its previous test in January, and the increasing number of ballistic missile launches all of which flagrantly violate multiple UN Security Council resolutions. The Foreign Ministers expressed strong opposition to unilateral actions that raise tensions in the South China Sea, such as land reclamations and building of outposts, as well as their use for military purposes, and urged all parties to comply with their obligations under international law and refrain from such actions. They welcomed the Chairman's Statement of the 11<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit which specifically emphasised the importance of non-militarisation. The Foreign Ministers called on all parties to refrain from actions that jeopardise freedom of navigation and overflight and to pursue the peaceful management and settlement of maritime disputes in good faith and in accordance with international law, including though applicable internationally recognised legal dispute mechanisms, including arbitration.

The Foreign Ministers consider the July 12, 2016 award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as a useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea. They welcomed

the statement by ASEAN and China to intensify efforts to conclude the negotiations on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). The Foreign Ministers called for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the early establishment of an effective COC. ([Full text of the statement on Recent Developments in Asia](#))

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia