

Dear friends,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

On Sunday 22 November, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fumio Kishida and Minister for Defence, Gen Nakatani met with their Australian counterparts, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop and Minister for Defence, Marise Payne, for the 6th Japan-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations held in Sydney.



The 2+2 took place timely after Japan's recent passage of Legislation for Peace and Security. All ministers reaffirmed that both Japan and Australia would further strengthen the bilateral security and defence relationship and advance the close and expansive cooperation engaged by our two nations. Please find attached the Joint Communiqué issued following the meeting, which addressed various aspects including enhanced bilateral defence cooperation, Australia's Future Submarine, cooperation in the Pacific region, the East China Sea and the South China Sea, North Korea, the rights of women, cooperation at the United Nations, and the U.S. engagement in the region.



I would like to end this message by sharing with you Foreign Minister Bishop's comments upon the completion of the 2+2 meeting. Minister Bishop expressed Australia's wishes to work with Japan at a "heightened level", ensuring cooperation across areas of humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping, and in particular regional security. The Foreign Minister continued to say that over the years Japan has been a "significant contributor" to UN peacekeeping, and the recent reform of peace and security legislation will allow Japan to "make an even greater contribution".

Yours sincerely,

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Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[2+2 Joint Communique](#)