

Joint Statement on the Establishment of the Strategic Partnership between Romania and Japan

Romania and Japan (hereinafter referred to collectively as “**both Countries**”),

Recalling the increasingly close bilateral ties developed since the signing of the *Joint Declaration on Partnership between Romania and Japan* in 2002, reinforced by the subsequent *Joint Declaration on Renewed Partnership* in 2013,

Recognising the enduring friendship and well-established tradition of cooperation uniting both Countries,

Stressing that the international order based on the rule of law is now at stake, witnessing the intensification of geopolitical competitions, and acknowledging that the world is now at a historical inflection point in the most severe, complex and volatile security environment since the end of WWII,

Underscoring the recognition that the security of Europe and that of the Indo-Pacific are inseparable and stressing the necessity of further strengthening cooperation between both Countries and like-minded countries, in order to respond to the changing strategic environment,

Emphasizing their resolve to uphold and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law, and their commitment to the shared fundamental values, norms and principles of freedom, democracy, global peace and respect for human rights,

Confirming their firm adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognised norms of international law,

Convinced that the complex global challenges confronting the humankind could be better dealt with through the contributions of all United Nations Member States in an open and constructive dialogue,

Acknowledging their common pursuit for international cooperation and the effective multilateral order based on the rule of law,

Recognising both Countries’ endeavors to consolidate stability, security and prosperity and to promote the values of democracy and the benefits of increased connectivity through quality infrastructure investment in line with international rules and standards.

Expressing their will to further enhance bilateral relations based on the valuable contribution made by the commencement of provisional application, on February 1, 2019, of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part,

Acknowledging the need to further develop their cooperation in a comprehensive manner, enabling both Countries to shape a coordinated response to common challenges and to avail themselves of emerging opportunities on the bilateral and international levels,

Resolve to elevate their bilateral relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership, focusing on three main pillars, as follows:

Pillar I: Political and security dialogue

1. Both Countries decide to intensify their political cooperation, by organising regular high-level meetings and maintaining a constant dialogue between the two Governments, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. Contacts between the national Parliaments and local authorities in Romania and Japan, working-level dialogue among equivalent ministries and governmental agencies, as well as civil society interactions will be equally encouraged.
2. Both Countries resolve to oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, anywhere in the world.
3. Both Countries condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and reaffirm their support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognised borders, underscoring the importance of the international community's unity in responding to Russia's aggression through sanctions, including financial sanctions, export controls, and other measures. Both Countries condemned Russia's reckless threat to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine as a serious and unacceptable menace to the peace and security of the international community. Both Countries will cooperate in support of Ukraine, including in the framework of G7+ discussions. Romania appreciates the interest of Japan to engage in a dialogue with Bucharest 9 format.
4. Both Countries recognize the importance of peace, stability, territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and shows willingness to cooperate for its end.

5. Both Countries share a common interest in a free, democratic, secure, stable and prosperous Black Sea region. To this end, both Countries will work together to foster economic development, regional security and democracy. Both Countries will explore opportunities to invest in the development of connectivity, tourism, trade and energy projects in order to put into value the potential of the bridging role of the region between Europe and South Caucasus, and Central Asia.
6. Both Countries continue their dialogue and strengthen their cooperation on topics of mutual interests at a global level, such as, but not limited to, regional challenges in both Indo-Pacific, in Europe, its Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods and beyond, countering challenges to the international order based on the rule of law, connectivity, gender equality, population ageing, poverty mitigation, climate change, and the reform of the international institutions and fora, including the necessary and long awaited reform of the United Nations Security Council with the expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, with a view to strengthening the functions of the UN as a whole, in the spirit of multilateralism, openness and transparency, thus contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
7. Building on the commonalities between their respective approaches to the region, both Countries concur on enhancing cooperation to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), which is inclusive and based on the rule of law. Both Countries commit to working in support of EU-Japan cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, including engagement with ASEAN, South Asia and the Pacific Islands countries.
8. Both Countries reaffirm the importance of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight and emphasize the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Both Countries emphasize that all maritime claims must be based on the relevant provisions of UNCLOS. In this respect, regarding the East and South China Seas, both Countries reiterate the strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion that increase tensions and undermine regional stability and the international order based on the rule of law.

9. Both Countries commit to continuing engagement on global and regional matters and note the importance of bilateral dialogue and Japan-EU engagement on issues such as Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, the Middle East Peace Process, North Korea and Myanmar.
10. Both Countries condemn North Korea's ongoing development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, including the multiple Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launches since the beginning of 2022, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). Both Countries reiterate their commitment to the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles of all ranges and related programs and emphasize the importance of full implementation of the relevant UNSCRs. Both Countries strongly urge North Korea to address without delay the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the resolution of the abductions issue.
11. Both Countries acknowledge the importance of enhancing bilateral, and multilateral cooperation with the aim of strengthening arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Both Countries emphasize the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and an essential foundation for the pursuit of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the need to maintain and strengthen the Treaty and other international regimes in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction. Both Countries confirm their commitment to achieve a world without nuclear weapons in line with the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Both countries deeply regret Russia's decision to suspend the implementation of the New START Treaty.
12. Both Countries reaffirm their commitment to international peace and security, and to the international order based on the rule of law underpinned by adherence to international law. In this regard, Romania welcomes the recent adoption of the Japan's National Security Strategy.
13. Both Countries will encourage intensified dialogue between respective agencies in the field of security and other related international topics of mutual concern.

14. Both Countries stress the necessity of further strengthening cooperation between Japan and NATO in order to respond to the changing strategic environment. Both Countries reiterate the importance of strengthening NATO's engagement with the Indo-Pacific to tackle cross-regional challenges and shared security interests.
15. Both Countries will endeavour to pursue cooperation in various areas related to international security, including on the basis of the *Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme between Japan and NATO* initiated in 2014, and revised in 2018 and 2020. Both Countries welcome progress toward the new framework cooperation document between Japan and NATO, the individually Tailored Partnership Programme.
16. Both Countries are determined to increase their cooperation in the field of cybersecurity and in the fight against asymmetric security threats.

Pillar II: Economic and development cooperation

17. Both Countries reaffirm their determination to expand and diversify the scope of their bilateral economic and commercial relations by taking full advantage of the EU-Japan cooperation framework, in particular the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Japan. Both countries confirm that they will continue to cooperate within the applicable EU-Japan framework, in order to lift the remaining EU's import measures on Japanese food products taken in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, based on scientific evidence on the risk to human health.
18. Both Countries recognize the importance to leverage the potential of valuable data-driven technologies, promote international cooperation to drive benefits for our economies and societies, including through realizing the benefit of data free flow with trust. In the given context, both Countries welcome the start of negotiations between Japan and EU, on including provisions on cross-border data flows into Japan-EU EPA.
19. Both Countries express their readiness to avail themselves of the opportunities opened by the Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy setting out elements for an EU vision on a comprehensive strategy to better connect Europe and Asia, adopted in 2018, as well as by the EU Strategy for

Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, adopted in 2021, and by the Global Gateway Strategy of the EU.

20. Both Countries resolve to uphold the principles of sustainable connectivity and quality infrastructure in bilateral projects in line with the contents of the *Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between Japan and the European Union*. In such context, both Countries welcome the construction of Braila Bridge as symbol of successful cooperation of the infrastructure project developed in an equitable and transparent manner, bringing the mutual benefit and contributing to the growing connectivity in the region. Both Countries also recognize the importance of attracting Japanese private sector's interest toward Three Sea Initiatives. Both Countries acknowledge the potential for the development of major infrastructure projects and for strengthening bilateral cooperation in various other fields such as energy, transport and digital connectivity.
21. Both Countries express determination to increase encourage to support for business in Romania and Japan including start-ups by institutions such as JETRO, and the corresponding Romanian ministries and economic institutions.
22. Both Countries acknowledge the highly disruptive impact of epidemics and pandemics on the global economy and global integrated value and supply chains and, thus, express solidarity in response to the pandemic and commit to continuing bilateral cooperation to support global recovery and ongoing vigilance.
23. Both Countries share their determination to pursue policies that encourage an open, fair and inclusive global economy and firmly support, promote and shape the rules based multilateral trading system. Both Countries express concerns with and oppose economic coercion through the use, or threat of use, of economic measures including those affecting trade and investment, which are frequently intended to induce or influence a foreign government in the exercise of its legitimate rights, choices or claims made in accordance with international law. Such practices, which could undermine global security and stability, must be prevented. Having that in mind, both Countries share the importance to deepen dialogues with regard to economic security.

24. Both Countries will cooperate to move forward the discussions at the OECD on Romania's accession process. In this vein, both Countries expect to see deeper cooperation after Romania becomes a new member of the OECD.
25. Both Countries express their interest in implementing development assistance projects in third countries, such as the Republic of Moldova, jointly carried out by their specialised official development assistance agencies – the Romanian Agency for International Development (RoAid) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as through or with the support of their respective Embassies. Both Countries acknowledge the importance of *Moldova Support Platform* as a coordination mechanism to channel and coordinate assistance for the Republic of Moldova, particularly for its European integration process.
26. Both Countries express their commitment to developing their overall economic cooperation in the spirit of sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
27. Both Countries acknowledge the significance of the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan, which features global efforts to achieve the SDGs and digitalization in the era of COVID-19 and beyond.
28. Both Countries recall the importance of adhering to internationally recognised rules and standards, including those for lending and investments such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment. In particular, both Countries reiterated the importance of open and fair lending practices underlying debtors' diplomatic autonomy, and confirmed that both Countries would continue to work to ensure enhanced debt transparency, swift implementation of the G20 Common Framework for debt treatment in a timely, orderly and coordinated manner, and fair burden sharing with private and official bilateral creditors in line with the comparability of treatment principle.

Pillar III: Culture, science and technology, research and development, innovation, people-to-people contacts

29. Both Countries intend to expand their bilateral cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, including by organising cultural events

encouraging, appreciating the initiative of establishing Romanian Culture Institute in Tokyo.

30. Both Countries are determined to support increased synergies between their research communities and higher education institutions, especially through the promotion of academic mobility.
31. Both Countries recognise the importance of furthering their cooperation including sister-cities / twinning programs between localities in the two countries.
32. Both Countries intend to strengthen their cooperation in the field of scientific research, technology and innovation, by facilitating the exchanges of experience and by developing joint projects, both bilaterally and under the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the European Union on Cooperation in Science and Technology. In this regard, both Countries distinctly emphasize their support for the implementation of research projects in the field of nuclear physics with laser beams, especially upon the completion of the ELI-NP project, and joint initiatives in such areas as information and communications technology, blockchain, robotics and artificial intelligence, smart city, seismology, geophysics, marine ecosystems.
33. Both countries show their strong intention to launch concrete action to cooperate in area of digitalization and ICT and intensification of business dialogue in the respective field.
34. Both Countries commit themselves to increased bilateral cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction, including preparedness and response activities in emergency situations and in the field of emergency medical care, including through telemedicine. Specifically, both Countries will engage in technical cooperation in earthquake damage mitigation and response.
35. Both Countries resolve to intensify their cooperation in the health field, at both bilateral and international levels, in order to build the resilience of their public health systems in preventing and combating infectious diseases, and to stimulate global support for the establishment of effective early detection and response mechanisms against imminent outbreaks.

Signed in duplicate in two, on the day of 7 March 2023, in the English language.

Klaus Werner Iohannis
President of Romania

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Prime Minister of Japan