

Immediate Release

Secretary of Defense Austin Statement on Japan's Release of its New Strategy Documents (National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy, and Defense Buildup Program)

Dec. 16, 2022 |

We welcome the release of Japan's updated strategy documents – the National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy, and Defense Buildup Program – which reflect Japan's staunch commitment to upholding the international rules-based order and a free and open Indo-Pacific. There is important alignment between Japan's newly released National Defense Strategy and the vision and priorities outlined in the U.S. National Defense Strategy, both of which underpin continuing bilateral efforts to modernize the Alliance, bolster integrated deterrence, and address evolving regional and global security challenges through cooperation with likeminded allies and partners.

We support Japan's decision to acquire new capabilities that strengthen regional deterrence, including counterstrike capabilities. We also endorse Japan's decision to increase substantially its defense spending and reach two percent of GDP in 2027, and to improve the jointness and interoperability of its Self-Defense Forces through the creation of a permanent joint operational headquarters. The Alliance remains the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and the United States is committed to working with Japan in support of the goals enshrined in both countries' strategies.

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