Japan-Germany Joint Leaders' Statement

October 28, 2026

Bilateral Cooperation

(Context)

1. Friedrich MERZ, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, paid a visit to Japan from 28 to 29 October 2026. Prime Minister TAKAICHI Sanae and Friedrich MERZ had a summit meeting in Tokyo on 28 October 2026. The two leaders welcomed the steady progress made in the bilateral relationship between Japan and Germany based on the Joint Statement of the 1st Japan-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations held in March 2023.

2. Amid rapid geopolitical and geoeconomic changes, the two leaders reaffirmed the need to cooperate even more closely with allies and like-minded countries, and the importance of upholding fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, free and fair trade, the rule of law, and human rights.

3. The two leaders recognised the shared strategic challenges (security, defence, economic security, technological innovation, and other global issues including climate action and environmental protection) that must be addressed to ensure freedom, peace and prosperity of Japan, Germany, and the world in the medium to long term, and reaffirmed the relationship between Japan and Germany as "Premium Partners".

4. Recognising that security and prosperity in the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific areas are increasingly intertwined, the two leaders shared the view that it is important to strengthen cooperation between their nations, in line with the updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) and Germany's Indo-Pacific Guidelines.

5. Against the backdrop of rapid technological innovation and escalating concerns over economic coercion profoundly shaping global security and prosperity, the two leaders emphasised that Japan and Germany, as Premium Partners, have indispensable complementarity and reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to enhancing cooperation in economic security and advanced technologies, welcoming the release of two key, mutually complementary guiding documents — the Japan-Germany Joint Declarations on Advanced Technologies Cooperation and on Economic Security Cooperation — on the occasion of Chancellor Merz's visit to Japan in October 2026.

(Security and Defence Cooperation)

6. Against the background of an increasingly challenging security environment across regions, the two leaders reaffirmed their readiness to take on more responsibility for peace and stability. To this end, the leaders concurred that both sides will work to enhance their preparedness and defence industrial base. They remain committed to partnerships and diplomacy, to multilateralism and the international order based on the rule of law.

7. Recognising their shared values and strategic interests, the two leaders welcomed the deepening of cooperation between their defence authorities in recent years, such as the mutual dispatch of assets and increasing number of bilateral exercises, which have laid a robust foundation for their bilateral partnership.

8. To further enhance strategic coordination and ensure effective high-level policy discussions, they also decided on the early convening of the next Japan-Germany '2+2' consultations between their respective foreign affairs and defence ministries. Both sides acknowledged the ongoing efforts to develop/revise their respective National Security Strategies which would contribute to enhanced cooperation among like-minded countries to maintain peace and security in the region and beyond.

9. Chancellor MERZ also welcomed Japan's review of the Three Principles on the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology and its Implementation Guidelines. Both leaders expressed their expectation that this step would further deepen defence industrial cooperation between the two countries.

10. The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to further advance the security and defence cooperation ecosystem on the basis of the Japan-Germany Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, Security of Information Agreement, and Defence Equipment and Technology Transfer Agreement. In this spirit, they will further explore opportunities and frameworks to enhance and facilitate operational cooperation, such as joint exercises between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the German Bundeswehr.

11. The two leaders confirmed the need to respond to changes in the security environment — such as increasingly severe threats including hybrid attacks and technological innovations that have advanced significantly in recent years. They therefore concurred to promote defence industry and technology cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as uncrewed systems. They welcomed the recent dynamic in defence business-to-business exchanges and initiatives to encourage start-up cooperation with a view to fostering innovation.

12. Amid intensifying international competition over narratives and images, security challenges to be addressed encompass the traditional domains of land, sea and air, as well as space and cyberspace, and the cognitive domain. The two leaders therefore decided to deepen bilateral dialogue and cooperation on strategic communication and on countering foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). As like-minded partners, Germany and Japan face similar threats to their democratic processes and to a free and resilient information environment caused by FIMI actors. These threats have intensified with the growing influence of social media and the rapid evolution of generative AI, and they increasingly occur in conjunction with hybrid threats. The two leaders shared the view that detecting patterns and strengthening societal resilience are key. To this end, both sides will share threat assessments, methodologies and best practices, including on proactive, fact-based communication that narrows the room for manipulation (pre-bunking) and on calm, fact-based responses to false or manipulated information (debunking), while upholding freedom of expression. Both sides will also continue to work closely together in multilateral frameworks such as the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and the European and Indo-Pacific Partners (EIPP).

13. The two leaders committed to enhance deterrence in cyberspace by reinforcing and strengthening long-term cyber cooperation through the Japan-Germany Cybersecurity Dialogues. They also underlined the importance of ongoing joint work to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure against the full range of cyber threats facing Japan and Germany.

Trade, Economy and Technology

14. The two leaders underscored the importance of securing and promoting the rules-based free, open, and fair international economic order, and expressed their commitment to further strengthening close bilateral economic ties and their economic and strategic partnership under the Japan-EU framework. They concurred to cooperate in the WTO and in other frameworks on rules-based trade with like-minded partners to uphold, strengthen and reform the rules-based multilateral trading system, support the continued effective and full implementation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, and deepen cooperation between the EU and the CPTPP with a view to promoting the open, rules-based international economic order, and high-standard trade rules and norms in response to global trade challenges.

15. The two leaders decided to closely coordinate measures aimed at strengthening their competitiveness amid shared geoeconomic challenges. They committed to working together to maintain the connectivity, openness and resilience of Japan-Germany supply

chains and to ensure a level playing field for like-minded partners. In principle, the two leaders expressed their support for "Made with" rather than "Made in" approaches. To this end, they confirmed their intention to cooperate closely with regard to the Japanese and EU's respective policies, with a view to ensuring that the interests of both Japan and the EU as trusted partners, such as in industrial support measures for strategic sectors are in principle and reciprocally taken into consideration.

16. They noted the many common priorities of Japan's Growth Strategy and the High Tech Agenda Germany, among others, and encouraged further cooperation in the respective fields as well as in areas such as economic security, energy, and digital connectivity including AI and Beyond 5G/6G and start-ups.

17. Furthermore, both sides stressed the importance of industrial cooperation as a key pillar, for instance in the field of raw materials or semiconductors, where bilateral cooperation and coordination is to be intensified.

18. Both leaders took note of recent AI related incidents and concurred on the collaboration between Japan AI Safety Institute and German AI Safety and Security Institute.

19. The two leaders expressed grave concern over the increasing use of economic coercion such as, arbitrary export restrictions and retaliatory measures on critical minerals and rejected non-market policies and practices (NMPPs) that are leading to overcapacity and market distortions, which undermine our economic security and resilience. They emphasised the importance for both Japan and Germany of safeguarding a free and fair economic order, strengthening economic security, and enhancing the resilience of their economies.

20. The two leaders underscored that collaboration and exchange in the field of advanced technology, including space and fusion energy, is a key pillar of bilateral ties. The two leaders shared the intention to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and coordination in this field, as outlined in the Japan-Germany Leaders' Declaration on Advanced Technologies Cooperation.

21. Chancellor MERZ invited Japan to serve as the Partner Country at HANNOVER MESSE 2028. Prime Minister TAKAICHI expressed her pleasure in accepting the invitation and stated that Japan would participate with a theme reflecting its position as a leading technology nation.

Others

22. The two leaders welcomed the recent signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on Assisting Japanese and German Nationals Abroad, in which the two countries renewed their commitment to strengthening information-sharing in peace time and extending mutual assistance in times of crisis to ensure the safety of their nationals abroad.

23. The two leaders will promote intellectual exchange between the two countries by further utilising the Japanese-German Forum, where intellectuals from various fields engage in discussions with the aim of strengthening relations and enhancing mutual understanding, and the Japanese-German Center Berlin, which serves as a base for Japan-Germany exchange across a wide range of fields such as academia, economy, politics, social issues and culture.

Regional and Global Issues

24. The two leaders expressed serious concern over the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. They reiterated their strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion anywhere in the world. They emphasised the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and encouraged the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues. They reaffirmed that maritime disputes must be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

25. The two leaders expressed their deep concern over North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and reaffirmed their commitment to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of North Korea in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. They expressed their serious concerns over and the need to address together North Korea's malicious cyber activities, including cryptocurrency thefts and its IT worker activities, and increasing military cooperation with Russia. They urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue immediately.

26. The two leaders condemned Russia's unprovoked, unjustified aggression against Ukraine which has caused immeasurable human suffering and had devastating consequences, including – but not limited to – the economic, energy and environmental security of Ukraine. They reiterated their call on Russia to immediately end its aggression against Ukraine and implement a full, immediate and unconditional ceasefire. They reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and expressed their readiness to cooperate closely in the efforts to realise a just and lasting peace and towards the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. The two leaders highlighted the importance of continuing and

coordinating support for Ukraine through mechanisms such as the Ukraine Donor Platform. They recognised the importance of providing immediate assistance for Ukraine's energy sector ahead of the upcoming winter. They expressed their intention to continue supporting Ukraine's reform efforts and to mobilise private sector contributions towards Ukraine's recovery. The two leaders also shared their views that no countries or entities from those countries that financed or supplied the Russian war machine will be eligible to profit from Ukraine's reconstruction. They remain determined to put pressure on Russia until it demonstrates a genuine political will to engage in meaningful negotiations towards a just and lasting peace.

27. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East. They reaffirmed the importance of an early de-escalation of the situation surrounding Iran through diplomatic solutions, and called upon Iran to cease attacks on vessels and countries in the region and to exercise maximum flexibility in order to avoid further escalation. They stressed the importance of securing free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait maintaining stable supply chains for energy and other essential goods, and upholding international law, in particular as reflected in UNCLOS. They condemned in the strongest terms the unacceptable escalation caused by the Houthis on the ground, which has deepened humanitarian suffering, as well as the continued strikes carried out by the Houthis against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in particular those targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure. They stressed the imperative of advancing the Comprehensive Plan to rebuild Gaza and of living up to the commitment to a negotiated two-state solution. They reaffirmed that continued diplomatic efforts are indispensable for restoring stability at the earliest opportunity and for achieving lasting peace in the region.

28. On the multilateral front, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to working closely with the other G4 countries for an urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) including through the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories, which a majority of Member States support, to truly reflect contemporary geopolitical realities. They expressed their determination to implement UNSC reform, at the earliest opportunity by developing a consolidated model that properly reflects the voice of a majority of Member States and commencing text-based negotiations under the Inter-governmental Negotiations (IGN) framework.

29. The leaders also reaffirmed their continued and unwavering support for the international justice system.

30. They expressed their support for a strong, effective, and well-resourced multilateral development system and shared their interest in a more coherent, efficient, and impact-oriented UN development architecture. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusion

31. Chancellor MERZ extended an invitation to Prime Minister TAKAICHI to visit Germany at the first opportunity. The two leaders concurred on bringing forward the 2nd Japan-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations, aiming to convene in Berlin the following year.