



**Joint Statement between Ireland and Japan**  
**“Taking Forward Partnership with Shared Ambition”**

**Meeting between Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D.**  
**and Prime Minister Mr. Kishida Fumio**

**at Tokyo on Wednesday, 20 July, 2022**

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**20 July 2022**

#### **Preamble**

1. On the occasion of the meeting between the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo on 20 July, 2022, the two leaders welcomed the strengthening and deepening of bilateral relations between Ireland and Japan through ongoing high-level engagement at Head of Government and Ministerial level, as well as through engagement between both countries at official level.
2. The two leaders marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan and acknowledged the achievements and the continuing development of bilateral relations since the Joint Declaration was signed in 2013.
3. The two leaders declared a strongly shared intention to take relations and exchanges between Ireland and Japan to a new, higher level.
4. The two leaders resolved to take necessary actions to deepen and expand bilateral cooperation between their two countries, based on shared fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and their close and friendly relations and mutual interests.
5. The two leaders continue to stand with the overwhelming majority of the international community in condemning Russia’s military aggression and the suffering and loss of life it continues to cause, and stand in solidarity with the government and people of Ukraine. The killing of innocent civilians is a grave breach of international humanitarian law and absolutely unacceptable. The two leaders affirmed that those responsible for atrocities perpetrated by Russian forces must be held accountable and brought to justice.
6. The two leaders declared that the bilateral relations would continue to be strengthened and enlarged in the years to come by virtue of the wider partnership between Ireland and Japan arising from our common participation in both the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

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7. The two leaders recalled the commitment of the EU and Japan in the EPA and the SPA to strengthen partnerships in a comprehensive manner, by expanding political, economic and cultural ties and commitments, and in this regard, to enhance cooperation, including by strengthening consultations at all levels and by taking joint actions on all issues of common interest.
8. The Taoiseach highlighted the continuing development of the new Ireland House in Tokyo ('Ireland House'), the Government of Ireland's largest single capital investment outside the State. The Ireland House project, a key deliverable from *Global Ireland: Delivering in the Asia Pacific*, demonstrates the strength of Ireland's commitment to expanded relations and exchanges between their two countries. Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the Ireland House project.
9. The two leaders shared sympathy with regard to the loss of life and other impacts of COVID-19. They expressed solidarity in response to the pandemic and committed to continuing bilateral cooperation to support global recovery and ongoing vigilance.

### **Acting together as like-minded States on the global stage**

10. The two leaders recognised the need to demonstrate leadership and committed to cooperate both bilaterally and through multilateral fora to maintain and strengthen the rules-based international order and address global issues. They reiterated their strong commitment to a rules-based international order, with the United Nations at its core, as the most effective means for the maintenance of international peace and security, the pursuit of economic and social development and the protection, and promotion of human rights. Both sides reaffirmed their attachment to the United Nations Charter including the primary responsibility given by it to the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. They noted support for the reform of the United Nations, including the UN Security Council, recognising the fundamental role the UN plays in developing the rules-based international order. The two leaders committed to showing leadership in responding to global challenges, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and working to strengthen multilateral institutions to make them fit to deal with the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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11. The two leaders recognised the importance of working in partnership, maximizing the potential of membership of multilateral and regional bodies, and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening conflict prevention and accountability mechanisms.
12. Building on the commonalities between their respective approaches to the region, the two leaders concurred on enhancing cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive and based on the rule of law and democratic values, as well as unconstrained by coercion. They committed to working in support of EU-Japan cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, including engagement with ASEAN, South Asia and the Pacific Islands.
13. The two leaders recognised that ongoing response to COVID-19 remains a shared priority. They also recognised the importance of supporting universal, equitable and affordable access to safe, effective and quality-assured COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and treatments, as well as the strengthening of health systems, recalling that the two countries have made contributions to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and its COVAX facility. They expressed their willingness to cooperate towards the expansion of vaccine production, delivery and vaccination capacity across the world, while keeping supply chains open. They also confirmed the importance of strengthening prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics.
14. The two leaders determined to work closely together, especially in the following areas of international peace and security:
  - 14.1. The two governments decided to deepen engagement and cooperation in respect of substantive issues, geographic and thematic, of which the United Nations Security Council is seized, especially during terms when Ireland or Japan is serving on the Council as an elected member.
  - 14.2. They decided to identify and explore opportunities for cooperation in the area of peacekeeping operations by sharing experiences between the two countries.
  - 14.3. They committed to advancing global efforts to address gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict, and promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

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- 14.4. They committed to continuing to contribute actively to the review of UN peacebuilding architecture, including through strengthening the role of the Peacebuilding Commission.
- 14.5. They reaffirmed that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They committed to working closely to maintain and strengthen the NPT, including by achieving a meaningful outcome at the 10th NPT Review Conference.
- 14.6. They stressed that the 40-year long decline in global nuclear arsenals must be sustained and not reversed. In this regard, the two leaders reconfirmed their intent to continue efforts to discuss with relevant states in order to advance arms control and disarmament efforts that ensure the involvement of relevant countries.
- 14.7. They expressed their deep concerns about the rhetoric and actions by Russia during its aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a clear violation of international law. They were deeply concerned about Russia's decision to put deterrence forces on high alert despite the "Joint Statement on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races" of January 3, 2022, which affirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
- 14.8. They committed to the promotion of rules-based multilateral approaches for an open, secure, accessible, and peaceful cyberspace, firmly grounded in international law, where human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected both online and offline.
15. The two leaders committed to promoting and protecting human rights, and speaking out firmly against serious human rights violations and abuses:

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- 15.1. The two governments committed to continuing to work together in multilateral fora on shared human rights priorities, including gender equality and women's empowerment, sexual orientation and gender identity, and the rights of the child.
- 15.2. They committed to continuing to work together on the promotion and protection of civil society space, including through membership of the Civil Society Space resolution core group at the Human Rights Council.
16. The two leaders decided to identify and develop opportunities to work together on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Climate Change and on Poverty Eradication.
  - 16.1. The two governments reaffirmed the commitment to ensure that no one is left behind and cooperate to achieve human security in light of the UNDP's 2022 Special Report on Human Security.
  - 16.2. They reaffirmed the importance of increasing investment in the societies of the future, including through investment in innovation and new technologies.
  - 16.3. They determined to explore opportunities for cooperation to promote sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity through the EU-Japan Partnership for Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure.
  - 16.4. They called on all actors to adhere to internationally recognised rules and standards, including those for lending and investments such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment. In particular, they reiterated the importance of fair and open lending practices underlying debtors' diplomatic autonomy, and they confirmed that Ireland and Japan would continue to work to ensure enhanced debt transparency, swift implementation of the 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.

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- 16.5. They affirmed their commitment to global food and nutrition security, in particular by supporting food security and agriculture in Ukraine and food-deficit third countries.
- 16.6. Building on successful collaborations in development cooperation in Africa and other regions as well as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the two leaders committed to identify opportunities for concrete bilateral collaboration together, in particular in sub Saharan Africa and the Pacific regions.
- 16.7. They affirmed the importance of promoting education for sustainable development.
- 16.8. They reaffirmed their respective commitments and strategies, including *Ireland's Climate Action Plan*, *Japan's Green Growth Strategy* and their latest Long-Term Strategies and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), consistent with the purposes of the Paris Agreement, to take decisive action *by 2030* and for achieving net zero emissions by 2050. They decided to deepen cooperation based on the EU-Japan Green Alliance to accelerate climate and environmental action. They reflected on the importance of the UNFCCC process in delivering on the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- 16.9. They noted the impact of climate change on those who are most vulnerable, particularly in LDCs and SIDS, and affirmed that Ireland and Japan support efforts to assist them in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

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17. The two leaders remain appalled by and condemn the devastating attacks on the Ukrainian population and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. The Russian leadership is obliged to immediately comply with the order of the International Court of Justice to suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine, without any further delay. They also urged Russia to withdraw its military forces and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. They underlined their resolve to impose severe consequences on Russia, including by fully implementing the economic and financial sanction measures. The two leaders further called upon the Belarusian authorities to avoid further escalation and to refrain from using their military forces or territory against Ukraine. Moreover, they urged all countries not to give military or other assistance to Russia to help continue its aggression against Ukraine. They will be vigilant regarding any such assistance.
  
18. The two leaders remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas and reiterated their strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and increase tensions that could undermine regional stability and the rules-based international order. They reaffirmed the critical importance of respecting international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with its provisions on the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means, and maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight. They underscored the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and encouraged the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues.
  
19. The two leaders committed to continued engagement on global and regional matters and noted the importance of bilateral dialogue and EU-Japan engagement on issues such as Xinjiang and Hong Kong, and also Ukraine, the Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Afghanistan, North Korea/DPRK, disarmament, Syria, the Middle East Peace Process, and Myanmar.

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20. The two leaders condemned North Korea's destabilising ballistic missile launches, including the recent Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launches, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs), urging North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programmes, other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. They underscored the importance of full implementation of the relevant UNSCRs and urged North Korea to comply fully with its obligations under relevant UNSCRs, to return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards, and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). They strongly urged North Korea to end all human rights violations and to resolve the abductions issue immediately.

### **Strengthening economic ties**

21. The two leaders recognised the value of cooperation between our advanced economies and the opportunities our respective countries provide. Ireland is, and will remain, a strongly committed, stable and dependable member State of the European Union, of its Single Market and its Customs Union as well as of the Eurozone Single Currency Area. As such, Ireland will continue to be an ideal, English-speaking gateway for trade with, and investment in the EU and its Single Market. Japan, one of the world's major economic powers, is committed to a prosperous Indo-Pacific region, bolstering free and open global economic systems, establishing new trade and investment rules and being "the best country in the world in which to do business" as well as an Asian Business Centre.
22. The two leaders underlined the importance of the EU-Japan EPA and its potential to foster greater economic cooperation between Ireland and Japan. They reaffirmed their commitment to maximise the opportunities the EPA offers, for Irish and Japanese exporters and companies across a wide range of sectors.
23. The two leaders declared that their respective approaches to strong and sustainable economic growth as well as their shared determination to broaden and enlarge trade, investment, innovation and other economic cooperation and exchanges between Ireland and Japan are based on shared principles and a commitment to establishing new free and open global economic and trade systems and reforming and strengthening the WTO.

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24. The two leaders declared their determination to pursue policies that encourage an open and inclusive global economy and firmly support, promote and shape the rules-based multilateral trading system. They recalled the commitment set out in the Joint Statement of the EU-Japan Summit in May 2022 to oppose economic coercion.
25. The two leaders recalled the importance of promoting the development of international trade in a way that contributes to sustainable development and to the Paris Agreement.
26. The two leaders welcomed the launch of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership. They highlighted that the Digital Sector, with the increasingly significant priority being given to Digital Transformation, provides significant opportunity for Ireland and Japan to collaborate to their mutual benefit in both the public and corporate spheres. The two leaders confirmed that the digitalisation and the digital transformation of the society and economy are the key driving forces for achieving further economic growth and sustainable society. Based on such shared recognition, they stressed the importance of domestic reformation efforts and committed to seeking possible cooperation in this field.
27. In this context, the two leaders confirmed that, as set out in the 2019 G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, the "Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)" for facilitating cross-border free flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust by continuing to uphold privacy, security and intellectual property rights is essential for economic growth and innovation. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to work together with international partners for materialising the DFFT concept, including WTO process and other international fora. In this regard, the two leaders also confirmed the necessity of promoting further the data flow across borders, affirmed the importance of their shared free and democratic values and reiterated their opposition to digital protectionism.
28. The two leaders decided to take all appropriate steps to help to grow trade between Ireland and Japan, and drive high value, high impact, sustainable investment, particularly in the areas of international financial services; digitalisation; life sciences; engineering and clean technology; and food, agriculture and agri-science.

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29. The two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to the timely and effective implementation of the Two-Pillar Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, as agreed by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.
30. The two leaders determined to enhance their bilateral cooperation, consonant with wider patterns of EU-Japan cooperation, in the following areas:
- 30.1. International financial services
    - identifying collaborative projects in areas of mutual interest such as sustainable finance and digital finance;
    - promoting mutual attendance of ministers/senior officials at significant financial services events such as the European Financial Forum in Ireland and FinSum in Japan;
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  - 30.2. Digitalisation
    - supporting innovation-driven Digital Sector SMEs, multinational corporates, research and academic communities, and public sectors to drive forward the digitalisation agenda;
  - 30.3. Life sciences
    - identifying opportunities to boost growth in Life Sciences (Pharmaceutical, Medtech);
  - 30.4. Engineering and clean technology
    - recognising the importance of efforts by exploring the widest variety of options according to national circumstances in order to achieve realistic energy transitions towards net zero emissions while ensuring a stable energy supply;
    - highlighting the potentials to increase investment, trade and other business activities in clean energy sector as the two countries pursue such energy transitions;

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- welcoming the ongoing business activities of the private sectors of both countries in this field, such as wind power and storage battery;

### 30.5. Food, agriculture and agri-science

- maintaining and strengthening the strong relationship between the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) with The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and other Japanese bodies to increase market access and the two-way trade in agri-food products between Ireland and Japan;
- promoting increased co-operation and exchange of people and knowledge between Ireland and Japan in the areas of agriculture, agri-food, food technology, food safety and veterinary medicine;
- continuing cooperation toward lifting the EU's import measures on Japanese food products following the Great East Japan Earthquake.

31. The two leaders expressed their willingness to boost trade and investment opportunities through promoting enhanced inter-agency cooperation by:

31.1 Effectively implementing existing JETRO-IDA and JETRO-EI MoUs for investment and business promotion in both directions;

31.2 Promoting cooperation on business-to-business relationships, including through IBEC, Keidanren and Keizai Doyukai engagement.

32. The two leaders looked forward to the success of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan and in light of this, decided to facilitate and support a deepening and expansion of Ireland's relations and exchanges with Osaka and the wider Kansai region.

33. The two leaders determined to drive growth opportunities in research, development, innovation and transformation in a broad range of areas including but not limited to, digitalisation, biologics, FinTech, sustainability, life sciences medical devices, and food & nutrition.

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34. The two governments committed to supporting and encouraging early and continuous strengthening of collaborations in Research, Development and Innovation to address social, environmental and economic interests and challenges through:
  - 34.1. exploring opportunities for cooperation to enhance research and innovation engagement between researchers, higher education institutions, research institutes and centres, government agencies and businesses;
  - 34.2. promoting mobility opportunities and academic and researcher exchanges, including support for STEM fields, arts and humanities, and support for interdisciplinary research contributing to public social policy;
  - 34.3. promoting cooperation under existing national instruments and agencies, such as the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centres; SFI Centres for Research Training, the Irish Research Council, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST);
  - 34.4. strengthening collaboration between Irish and Japanese research organisations and businesses, in areas of common interest.

### **Fostering people-to-people links**

35. The two leaders recognised the importance of nurturing interest and connection between their citizens to promote deeper understanding and to generate opportunities.
36. In parallel with the promotion of ministerial, senior official, and inter-parliamentary visits, the two leaders declared their commitment to continued enhancement of high-level engagement, including through increased partnership between businesses and representative bodies, institutions of education and research, think tanks, those engaged in people-to-people exchanges and other bodies and groups.
37. The two leaders supported Ministry-to-Ministry endeavours to recognise and support the active involvement and contribution of diplomatic officers in both countries including through Japanese language training initiatives.

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38. The two leaders determined to take steps to increase institutional, academic and student exchanges across the education sector through:

38.1. promoting cooperation among Higher Education Institutions and provide the opportunities for exchange students in both directions, including through the provision of joint programmes/degrees;

38.2. promoting their respective countries as a destination for further study, including support with market intelligence and participation in key student recruitment fairs;

38.3. recognising the large number of Japanese language learners at Secondary Education level and enhancing bilateral cooperation in Ireland towards strengthening of Japanese language education and Japanese studies in Higher Education institutions, including through development of the academic curriculum;

38.4. promoting bilateral cooperation in Japan, across governmental, corporate, academic and other sectors, with Ireland as one of the destinations for immersive English language programmes for Japanese students.

39. The two leaders supported exchange by young people to live, study and work in each other's countries, recognising the importance of existing frameworks such as the Working Holiday Programme, Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme and Japan's Friendship Ties Programs "MIRAI" including alumni:

39.1. The two governments consented to continue to promote youth exchanges under the Working Holiday Programme, building on the exchange of Notes Verbale in 2006 to introduce Working Holiday Program and exchange of Notes Verbale in 2019 to double the number of annual issuance of working holiday visas from 2020, while exploring possible future expansion of the Programme in line with demand.

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- 39.2. They expressed continued support for the activities of the JET participants and the JET Alumni Association in Ireland, which foster greater understanding and exchange between Ireland and Japan.
- 39.3. They expressed their intention to provide graduate placement programmes in both countries to enhance academic exchanges.
40. The two leaders prioritised the revitalisation of tourism between the two countries in the near future and collaborate further to foster respective tourism industries. They committed to promoting two-way travel and tourism through Tourism Ireland and Japan National Tourism Organisation.
41. The two leaders committed to supporting the development of greater connectivity between Ireland and Japan, including through building on the recent engagements between Irish and Japanese aviation authorities.
42. The two leaders reaffirmed their intention to develop further opportunities for increased bilateral cooperation and exchanges in culture and the arts, including in fine arts, literature, theatre, music, dance, film and animation, digital and other arts, recognising the new Ireland House as a unique space to promote cultural exchanges and performances.
- 42.1 The two governments decided to support expanded cultural cooperation between the two countries, building on the detailed exchanges in 2019 between the relevant Irish and Japanese Ministers;
- 42.2 They welcomed the recent success of the annual Japanese Film Festival in Ireland and decided to promote traditional and modern Japanese culture through cultural institutions in both countries;
- 42.3 They underlined the legacies of previous European Capitals of Culture to foster collaborations and exchange across the arts;
- 42.4 They decided to explore the future collaboration between the animation sectors in Ireland and Japan;

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42.5 They decided to explore a bilateral official programme for Exchanges of Artists and Artists in Residence;

42.6 They decided to collaborate in developing a “Season of Ireland” in Japan that will feature a programme of significant Irish exhibitions, performances and cultural events across a range of sectors as well as Ireland-Japan collaborations in the year or so surrounding the opening of Ireland House.

43. The two leaders declared their intention to enhance bilateral cooperation in sport, recognising the success of boosting links, knowledge and interest through collaboration at national, regional and local levels based on the Rugby World Cup (the RWC) and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympics Games(Tokyo 2020 Games):

43.1 The two governments welcomed exchanges with national sports bodies and at the local level nurtured through the RWC and the Tokyo 2020 Games (Japan Rugby Football Union, Engaru Town, Iwate Town, Fukuroi City, Narita City, Matsue City and Masuda City), and expressed support for the sustainable legacy of people-to-people and cultural exchange links from both events;

43.2 They explored opportunities for lesson sharing in disability in sport and around sport for older persons, including sharing of effective programmes and concepts;

43.3 They decided to facilitate knowledge sharing on attraction and hosting of major sports events;

43.4 They decided to facilitate exchanges and knowledge sharing between Sport Ireland and the Japan Sport Agency.

43.5 They stated their intention to increase cooperation between Ireland (HRI) and Japan (JRA) in the area of horse racing and horse breeding;

43.6 They committed to supporting their respective countries’ interests in becoming training destinations/pre-games camps for each other’s athletes;

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43.7 They committed to continuing to support international efforts to promote integrity in sport, including through support of the anti-doping agenda and the reform of WADA.

### **Achieving objectives**

44. The two leaders recalled their strongly shared intention to take relations and exchanges between Ireland and Japan to a new, higher level, and concurred on ongoing high level engagement in support of the effective implementation of this Joint Statement and to further enhance bilateral relationship by committing to:

44.1 Facilitating ongoing official level contacts to plan bilateral meetings at political level at mutually acceptable intervals;

44.2 Facilitating bilateral and political consultations at Deputy Secretary-General and Director General levels, supported by relevant offices, blending virtual and in-person meetings, including review of the implementation of the Joint Statement at mutually acceptable intervals;

44.3 Encouraging working level to promote other two-way high-level visits including Inter-Parliamentary visits;

44.4 Directing working level to prepare by end 2023 a programme of activities to support the implementation of this Joint Statement, and review and update this programme of activities as part of the ongoing Review of the Joint Statement;

44.5 Using communications channels to raise awareness of effective collaboration as outlined in the Joint Statement to wide-ranging stakeholders including respective national parliaments.

**ENDS**