Section 3 Outline of the National Security Strategy

1 National Security Council

The National Security Council that deliberates important matters with regard to national security such as the National Security Strategy (NSS) is established within the Cabinet, and the MOD and other related administrative organs provide the National Security Council with data and information pertaining to national security in a timely manner. The National Security Secretariat established within the Cabinet Secretary provides constant support to the National Security Council as its secretariat, and some MOD members, including uniformed SDF personnel, are working at additional posts at the National Security Secretariat.

See ▶ Fig. II-1-3-1 (Organization of National Security Council)

2 National Security Strategy

1 Japan's National Security Policy Framework

The NSS approved by the National Security Council and the Cabinet in December of 2013 represents Japan's first-ever basic policy on national security with a focus on diplomatic affairs and defense policy. The NSS defines approaches that Japan should follow based on a long-term view of its national interests. It replaces the Basic Policy on National Defense, which had served as the basis for Japan's defense policies theretofore. The National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG), which was established based on the NSS, defines basic policies for Japan's future defense, the role of its defense capabilities, and objectives for specific SDF equipment. The NDPG was formulated with a medium- to long-term outlook because the acquisition of defense equipment and the establishment of troop operational systems cannot be accomplished overnight and requires many years of planning. The NSS and NDPG are mainly designed for the next decade or so. The Medium Term Defense Program (MTDP) specifies a maximum budget and the amount of mainstay defense equipment to be acquired over the subsequent five-year period in order to achieve the defense capability targets defined in the NDPG. The fiscal year budget is drawn on the MTDP substantiated as projects, and the necessary expenses for each fiscal year will be appropriated based on relevant situations.

To date, the NDPG has contained mention of nationwide basic security policies focusing on defense policy to a certain extent. The NSS carries with it great meaning as the definitive statement of the Government's basic policy on national security, with a focus on diplomatic affairs and defense policy.

See ▶ Fig. II-1-3-2 (Relations among NSS, NDPG, MTDP and Annual Budget)

2 Outline of the National Security Strategy

(1) Fundamental Principle of National Security

a. Principles Japan Upholds – Proactive Contribution to Peace based on the Principle of International Cooperation

Japan is committed to continuing the path it has followed to date as a peace-loving nation and, as a major player in international politics and business, it also seeks its own security as well as peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region from its stance as a proactive contributor to peace based on the principle of international cooperation. Japan will contribute more proactively than ever before to the peace, security and prosperity of the international community.

b. Japan's National Interests and National Security Objectives

In achieving the aforementioned fundamental principle of national security by implementation of concrete policies, the following national interests need to be clearly defined.

○ To maintain its sovereignty and independence; to defend its territorial integrity, to ensure the safety of life, person and properties of its nationals, and to ensure its survival while maintaining its own peace and security grounded in freedom and democracy and preserving its rich culture and tradition;

○ To achieve the prosperity of Japan and its nationals through economic development, thereby consolidating its peace and security; and

○ To maintain and protect international order based on rules and universal values, such as freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

In order to safeguard these national interests and to fulfill Japan's responsibilities in the international community, Japan will work to achieve the following national security objectives.

○ Strengthen the deterrence necessary for maintaining Japan's peace and security and for ensuring its survival, thus deterring threats from directly reaching Japan, and defeating such threats and minimizing damage if by chance such threats should reach Japan.

○ Improve the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region and prevent the emergence of and reduce direct threats to Japan, through strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, enhancing the trust and cooperative relationships between Japan and its partners within and outside the Asia Pacific region, and promoting practical security cooperation.

○ Improve the global security environment and build a peaceful, stable and prosperous international community by strengthening the international order based on universal values and rules, and by playing

a leading role in the settlement of disputes.

(2) Security Environment Surrounding Japan and National Security Challenges

a. Global Security Environment and Challenges

While China, India, and other developing nations rise, the United States has clarified its policy to shift its policy emphasis towards the Asia-Pacific region, and as such the balance between countries is changing. Rapid advancements in globalization and technological innovation have increased the relative influence of non-state-actors, and at the same time, they have led to an increase in terrorism and criminal threats from non-state actors.

Issues including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by North Korea, Iran[1], and other countries and regions are major threats to Japan and the international community.

In addition, acts of terrorism have injured Japanese nationals and damaged Japan's national interests. This means that Japan and its people are directly exposed to the threat of international terrorism at home and abroad.

With regard to global commons, the risks of free access to and utilization of global commons such as seas, outer space, and cyberspace being hindered are becoming more and more serious. These risks include unilateral attempts to change the current status quo of the maritime aspect of the global commons by force, the threat of the development of anti-satellite weapons, and cyber attacks.

Global issues that cannot be dealt with by a single country, including poverty and humanitarian crises are emerging as critical and urgent issues of human security. Additionally, there is a growing risk that one country's economic crisis can expand to involve the entire global economy.

b. National Security Environment and Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region

Against the backdrop of the existence of various political systems, the concentration of nation states that possess large-scale military force, including nuclear weapons, and the insufficiently legislated regional cooperation frameworks on national security, so-called "gray-zone" situations, that is, neither pure peacetime nor contingencies over sovereignty of the territory or vested interests, are likely to arise, and this risks further aggravation of the situation.

North Korea has enhanced the capability of its WMDs including nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles as well as repeatedly carried out provocative military actions, increasing tension in the region.

While there is an expectation for China to share and comply with international norms, and play a more

[1] See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 2

active and cooperative role for regional and global issues, it has been rapidly strengthening and expanding its military capabilities without sufficient transparency, taken actions that can be regarded as attempts to change the current status quo in the seas including the East China Sea and South China Sea, and rapidly expanded and intensified its activities in the seas and airspace around Japan. In addition, there is a mutual existence of stability and potential instability in the relationship between the sides of the Taiwan Strait.

(3) Japan's Strategic Approach to National Security

Japan should take a strategic approach centering on diplomatic policy and defense policy as shown in the reference.

See ▶ Fig. II-1-3-3 (Outline of Japan's Strategic Approach to National Security)