



2nd G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security

Tokyo, Japan

December 8, 2016

Free, open and stable seas are a cornerstone for peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. In the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security of April 11, 2016, the Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and High Representative of the European Union, reaffirmed their commitment to further international cooperation on maritime security and safety. The G7 leaders endorsed the Statement at their summit in Ise-Shima in May 2016.

In the Statement, the G7 Foreign Ministers welcomed the convening of the 1st G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security hosted by Germany last December and encouraged efforts to promote understanding of international law including law of the sea such as organizing symposiums and seminars on the topic, while recognizing the importance of maintaining the sea as governed by the rule of law, which is indispensable for the peace and prosperity of the international community.

The 2nd G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security aims to follow up on Germany's initiative to engage in further discussions to address common challenges on maritime security and safety as the G7, and to identify concrete steps to translate the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security into action.

By way of dedicated roundtables, the Meeting will cover three major and interrelated dimensions of maritime security, each of which is mentioned prominently in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security. The first roundtable will overview the role of international law such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for peaceful management and settlement of maritime disputes with a particular focus on the ongoing situation in the South China Sea and the implications of the Arbitral Tribunal's Award of July 12 in the *Philippines-China Arbitration*. The second roundtable will examine ways to pursue international and regional cooperation to combat maritime security and safety challenges such as piracy and armed robbery at sea, transnational organized crime and terrorism in the maritime domain, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, with a particular focus on capability building activities of affected regions and countries, while addressing ways to enhance regional ownership and responsibility in fighting illegal maritime activities and dealing with their own vulnerabilities. The third roundtable will identify research activities aimed at providing scientific and technological support to enhance maritime security and safety as well as maritime domain awareness, and explore measures to be taken to conserve the marine environment including the Arctic and other oceans with the fragile ecosystem.

Through the roundtable discussions and the chair's summary, to be issued following the conclusion of the Meeting, the 2nd G7 High-level Meeting on Maritime Security aims to contribute to continuing and strengthening the G7's focus on maritime security for the G7 in 2017 and beyond.