

Chair's Closing Statement

Since the drafting of the 1997 Job-Nishihara Report, which provided the rationale and outlined recommendations for closer Canada-Japan cooperation in the area of peace and security, and the holding of our first Canada-Japan security symposium in Vancouver in 1998, the peace and security dimension of our bilateral relationship has truly taken root and is prospering.

We now have solid interaction in the security area, and we recognize that there are opportunities to develop further this aspect of the relationship in a creative manner.

We have reconfirmed that our 1999 Canada-Japan Action Agenda for Peace and Security Cooperation, which was endorsed by Prime Ministers Chrétien and Obuchi, continues to provide us with a valuable framework for our cooperation in a number of security and defence areas of mutual interest. That being said, it has been recommended here that we may wish to review the Action Agenda to determine whether modifications are in order to better reflect current circumstances and priorities.

For this third round of our biennial peace and security symposium, there has clearly been value in designing a more focussed and coherent agenda that pays particular attention to themes that currently dominate our foreign policy agendas, namely, terrorism and how our security environment has changed post-9/11, particularly with regards to managing relations with the USA.

We have had a rich discussion and stimulating exchange of views on these themes thanks in large part to the valuable contributions of our academic and official presenters, moderators and discussants along with frank and constructive interventions by participants.

We have reinforced our understanding of the increasing importance in the post 9/11 security environment for Canada and Japan, as committed multilateralists with a strong interest in preserving international security regimes, to redouble our joint efforts to promote a stable, secure, rules-based international order. We can make use of joint membership in multilateral and regional organizations to work together to achieve our common objectives.

In our deliberations yesterday and this morning, we have also emphasized the need to identify, at an early stage, opportunities for bilateral collaboration and to translate our common security policy outlook and the political will that has been articulated at the highest levels of our governments into practical cooperation.

A number of forward looking, creative ideas have been tabled at this symposium to advance our cooperation in such areas as peacekeeping, peacebuilding, security sector reform, human security, non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament, as well as, further collaboration between our defence authorities and development agencies. We have also had some very concrete, practical proposals put forward for Canada-Japan cooperation on counter-terrorism

with a good deal of attention paid to capacity building assistance to third countries, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

The list of potential areas for future collaboration produced and circulated for discussion by the Canadian side can serve to further focus our attention and stimulate our thinking. This list of proposals has only recently been shared with our Japanese colleagues and will need to be refined further. The list captures a number of proposals of mutual interest and can serve as a guide for future collaborative projects to be pursued by the two governments.

In addition to the discussion we have had on this list of proposals, further reactions to these ideas and any additional recommendations for collaborative projects from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and Japan Defence Agency's perspective would help to enrich this menu of opportunities for officials to pursue. In this regard, I fully agree with Deputy Director General Nagamine's recommendation that we form a coordination group to revise and prioritize proposals for bilateral cooperation as follow-up to this symposium.

Likewise, I would also encourage our academic colleagues to generate proposals for joint or complementary research projects which could make a valuable contribution to the development of our peace and security relationship.

Finally, I am grateful to Deputy Director General Nagamine for the generous offer he has made for Japan to host "Vancouver IV" in Tokyo in 2004, a year that carries special significance as the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Thank you.

Paul Meyer

Chair

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