

Prime Minister Marin's statement to the press after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida in Tokyo on 11 May 2022

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida,

Members of the media,

- The partnership between Japan and Finland is based on shared values and interests.
- Finland and Japan are strong defenders of the rules-based international order. Today, we need trusted partners more than ever.
- The world needs us. We must be united, resolute and brave.
- At our meeting with Prime Minister Kishida, we could feel this strong bond that unites us. The matters discussed are serious. However, the dinner tonight will be a dinner among friends.
- With Prime Minister Kishida we discussed Russia's horrible aggression against Ukraine and its consequences.
- Russia violates openly international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The atrocities against civilians continue. This cannot be accepted from any nation and even less from a permanent member of the Security Council.
- Russia's war must be stopped. We support the investigation of war-crimes. There will be no impunity. We need to step up support to Ukraine.
- As a member of the European Union, Finland is a strong advocate of further sanctions against Russia. They need to cover the energy sector, finance and transports more broadly than now.
- We value very high Japan's cooperation and leadership in responding to Russia's aggression. The response must be global. Also Japan has imposed sanctions and supports Ukraine.
- Finland will draw its consequences from the changed security environment. I told Prime Minister Kishida about our plans to possibly apply for Nato-membership.
- If Finland makes this historical step, it is for the security of our citizens. Joining Nato would strengthen the whole international community that stands for our common values.
- We also discussed nuclear disarmament and the regional situation in Asia. Japan's leadership in addressing the tensions and in defending international law is important. We are very concerned that North Korea continues its nuclear and missile program.

- With Prime Minister Kishida we discussed the general disappointment towards the United Nations Security Council. The power of veto has been abused. We must reform the Council to become transparent, more effective and more representative.
- During our meeting, I congratulated Prime Minister Kishida for managing the pandemic. We will hopefully get back to normal soon.
- I look forward to our regular flight connections returning to their high level. I was happy to travel here with our national air-carrier Finnair.
- After Covid and as geopolitical tensions continue, we need to support our business. Finland needs growth and jobs. As an open export-driven economy we need innovation and new markets.
- Japan and Finland have a true win-win opportunity in business, innovation and know-how. I am visiting Japan with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Ville Skinnari and an important business-delegation.
- The business-delegation focuses on science and technology. We have both companies and research institutions onboard. The CEO of Nokia Pekka Lundmark leads the business-delegation.
- Finland is the world leader in Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing, 5G and 6G development. These new technologies already have an important effect on our societies, economy and wellbeing.
- To have safe and trusted technologies is vital as the world becomes digital. We should make the digital change in a way that is technology neutral and market based. We will need new technologies for the Green Digital Transition and sustainable growth.
- These companies and institutions represent the best know-how and skills Finland can offer. Finns can be trusted.
- Japan and Finland have a lot in common as societies. We both face ageing populations and can work together to create true economies of wellbeing.
- Finally, let me conclude by stressing the importance of gender equality. We need to make efforts globally for the rights of women and girls.
- Finland's success has been possible because we understood very early that everyone in society is needed in order to survive and prosper.
- With Japan, we know that we can make a difference so that our common values and the international order stay strong, effective and respected.
- Thank you.