

The result of the meeting between Admiral Kawano, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff and General Mercier, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO

1. General Denis Mercier, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, paid a visit to the Ministry of Defense, Japan on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. It was the first time for Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO to visit Japan.
2. In the meeting between Admiral Kawano and General Mercier, they agreed to cooperate closely on the shared recognition that ensuring peace and stability in the region is essential for achieving global prosperity. They also agreed to promote security cooperation between Japan and NATO based on the Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme.
3. Admiral Kawano welcomed the recent enhancement of Japan-NATO defense exchanges and cooperation through the participation in NATO hosted conferences and seminars, and bilateral consultations such as Staff Talks and dispatch of a JSDF officer to the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. In addition, Admiral Kawano expressed that JSDF will promote the exchanges and cooperation in terms of sharing situational awareness and building human networks.
4. General Mercier highlighted that NATO welcomes Japan's policy of proactive contributions to peace and looks forward to new cooperation opportunities. Although the security environment are different in the Euro-Atlantic region and Asia-Pacific region, and notwithstanding geographic distance between Japan and the NATO member nations, in a more globalized and interlinked world, each of this two regions is affected by, and can affect, political and security developments beyond its borders.