

**Perspective on the First Main Theme of the Council,
“The contribution of social democracy to the resolution of conflicts
and to international peace and security”
(Social Democratic Party of Japan)**

Out of the disastrous sacrifice of the Second World War, the Japanese Socialist Party was formed. The realization of peace is one of the most important issues for the Social Democratic Party of Japan, which inherited the Socialist Party's history and traditions. The ideal of demilitarization remains unchanged, and we continue to aim for a world without military through a persistent effort at confidence building with neighboring nations.

The 20th Century was a century characterized by confrontation, conflict, and an unstable equilibrium among military blocks. The choices we make today determine whether the 21st Century remains a century in which terrorism and violence link nations, or move it towards being a century of building a new collective security system based on the trust and cooperation of the international community. Though the instability of the cold war structure still persists through Northeast Asia, intensifying military opposition and heightening tension does not provide a solution. Rather than following in the steps of the United States and strengthening military relations, it is necessary to improve and strengthen regional security through the efforts of confidence building among the Asian nations.

‘Peaceful Diplomacy,’ based on the Constitution of Japan, is the foundation for the Social Democratic Party's foreign policy. The Japanese peace Constitution stipulates the rejection of war, the denial of belligerency, and preserving our security and survival by trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world, rather than through military strength. The Constitution states an intention to occupy an honorable position as a progressive member of the international community. That we shall strive to eliminate “tyranny, slavery, oppression and narrow-mindedness” through the “preservation of peace.” That we shall also strive towards the citizens of the world equally having the “right to live in peace, free from fear and want.” ‘Peaceful Diplomacy’ aims to transform the idea of traditional security based on the balance of militaristic power among nations. Instead, it stresses the idea of “human security” based on social development, protection of human rights and environmental conservation. It emphasizes the philosophy of “progressive peace” by removing causes for terrorism, such as poverty, oppression, and discrimination. We are confident that Japan, with our tragic experiences of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa, as well as our peace Constitution, can provide successful leadership towards a peaceful world.

The Social Democratic Party has consistently focused on peaceful resolution through dialogue. In 2001, with Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan as its source, the Party launched “Peace Initiative of the 21st Century” by founding the Northeast Asia Comprehensive Security Organization (Japan, South Korea, North Korea, China, Russia, Canada and the United States). It instituted an agreement that “in the event of international conflict, the parties will not exercise military force, and instead seek a solution on the premise of peaceful discussion”. It also initiated a plan for a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (Japan, South Korea, North Korea, and Mongolia). This Peace Initiative focuses on 5 important principles: 1) to propagate the Japanese peace Constitution throughout the world; 2) to deepen historical awareness and understanding

grounded on impartiality from the viewpoint of the Japanese; 3) to resolve international conflict not through military force, but through peaceful dialogue; 4) to promote the elimination of weapons of mass destructions such as nuclear weapons and biological and chemical weapons; and 5) to spare no effort in achieving international cooperation for the security of the international community by playing a proactive non-military role in the Peace-Keeping Organization under the banner of the United Nations. In addition to these 5 principles there are 5 goals which we are determined to achieve: 1) the declaration of Japan as a “Nation of No War and No Nukes”; 2) the establishment of the Northeast Asia Comprehensive Security Organization; 3) the establishment of Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone; 4) the transformation from bilateral security into multilateral cooperation; and 5) the reduction and reorganization of the Japanese Self Defense Force. The Social Democratic Party called on China, Russia, South Korea and Mongolia, sharing this vision through opposition and gained broad approval in the “Joint Statement of Six-Party Talks” in September, 2005, which promises the “verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner” and joint efforts for lasting peace and stability in the Northeast Asia region.

Recognizing that peace and security cannot be realized in Northeast Asia in light of North Korean possession of nuclear weapons, the Social Democratic Party strongly protested against nuclear testing and the launching of ballistic missiles. Meanwhile, they also ignored American pressure and sanctions, and worked in concert with China, Russia and South Korea to persuade the United States and North Korea to return to the “Six-Party Join Declaration” of 2005 and initiate US-North Korean talks. It has demanded the normalization of diplomatic relations, implementation of economic assistance, and renunciation of nuclear weapons and missiles.

We are witnessing an historical opportunity for peaceful solutions through dialogue, which the Social Democratic Party has repeatedly promoted. At the historical Inter-Korean Summit on April 27th, 2018, North and South Korea took a concrete step toward overcoming the unstable status quo, avoiding armed conflict and creating a peaceful and prosperous, nuclear weapons-free Korean Peninsula. On June 12th, 2018, at the first U.S.-North Korean summit meeting, a joint statement was released stating United States and North Korean intentions to work together toward improvement of relations and the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and the world. We welcome that the United States and North Korea, who were in opposition and have a strained relationship, united to search for a mutually peaceful solution for pending issues through direct dialogue and negotiations, and anticipate the improvement in relations between the two countries.

The continued perception that the Korean War hasn't ended, as it 'technically' ended with an armistice rather than a treaty, has been the pretext for North Korea's nuclear development. Utilizing the opportunity provided by the summit, and through peaceful dialogues and negotiations, the war should be put to rest once and for all, and a push made for the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” Japan, as the only nation in the world to have experienced nuclear tragedy, is expected to play a role through its Peace Constitution as the “guarantor of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” In this role, Japan should be proactive in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in order to dissolve mutual trust, as well as provide stability and peace in the Northeast Asia region.

Additionally, in order to conclude the Cold War structure which has persisted in East Asia, not only must diplomatic relations between the United States and North Korea be normalized, but also those between Japan and North Korea. While the issue of North Korean abductions of Japanese citizens was not stipulated in the U.S-North Korean Joint Statement, the issue was mentioned by President Trump during a press conference. This issue is one that should be solved through direct dialogue and negotiations between Japan and North Korea. Referencing the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration, the Social Democratic Party will demand of the Japanese government a détente with North Korea. We will spare no effort in actively resolving pending issues such as the abduction of Japanese citizens, promoting tension relief and improving Japan-North Korean relations.