

# TOPICS

## Hosting of the G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting in Mito, Ibaraki

International organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime, and other security challenges facing the world are also challenges for Japan because they are directly linked to the safety and security of the nation's people. International cooperation is vital to deal with these crimes committed outside the nation's borders.

### (1) Outline of the G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting in Mito, Ibaraki

The G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting took place in Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture over three days from December 8 to 10, 2023. This meeting brought together the G7 and EU interior and security ministers as well as the Secretary General of INTERPOL <sup>(Note)</sup>, who exchanged opinions regarding seven agenda items: "protecting economic security and democratic values," "keeping cyberspace safe," "child sexual exploitation and abuse," "support for Ukraine," "generative AI," "transnational organized crime," and "terrorism and violent extremism."

For example, discussions about "protecting economic security and democratic values" included responses to challenges such as technological information theft and the spread of disinformation, while Ihor Volodymyrovych Klymenko, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, joined online to explain the country's present situation under the aggression by Russia during discussions about "support for Ukraine." Regarding "generative AI," front-line researchers joined the discussions about the risks and potential of generative AI, including projected security issues. On the topic of "transnational organized crime," online and telephone fraud was discussed for the first time at the G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting.

At the closing of the three-day meeting, the "G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Communiqué (December 10, 2023 in Mito, Ibaraki)," including annexes on the fights against child sexual exploitation and transnational organized fraud, was adopted, reflecting the results of the discussions, to make a strong statement to the world about the G7's intention and determination to tackle a wide range of crimes and security challenges.

### (2) Future initiatives

The police will contribute to promoting international investigative cooperation and strengthening security measures by engaging in discussion on security-related issues with security authorities of G7 nations and other countries with deep ties to Japan.



Scene from the meeting



Online participation by Ihor Volodymyrovych Klymenko, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine



Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission Matsumura Yoshifumi presenting the meeting results

Note: See page 18 (Feature).

Chart IV-1: Outline of the communiqué

## Main body

- **Continued Solidarity with and Support for Ukraine**
  - We condemn Russia's war of aggression and will cooperate in investigations into war crimes, etc., and support law enforcement agencies, etc.
  - We remain committed to ensuring the effectiveness of our sanctions against Russia.
- **All Forms of Terrorism and Violent Extremism**
  - We condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas and others and call for the immediate release of hostages.
  - We will work together with all relevant actors, including civil society, to prevent the spread of terrorist and violent extremist content online and for other purposes.
- **Ensuring Economic Security**
  - We endeavor to increase cooperation among the G7 members to prevent the exploitation of our open economic systems.
  - We will take action to identify and mitigate risks of disruptions to critical infrastructures underpinning our supply chains.
- **Countering Threats to Peace, Security, and our Democratic Values**
  - We reaffirm our commitment to ensure effective implementation of sanctions against North Korea and urge the country to resolve the abductions issue immediately.
  - We will strengthen the G7 coordination in addressing hybrid threats and foreign interference activities.
  - We condemn the widespread use of information manipulation and disinformation by Russia and others.
- **Keeping Cyberspace Safe**
  - We will leverage our partnerships with the ICT industry with a view to responding to illegal and harmful content from cyberspace.
  - We encourage China to act responsibly in cyberspace and counter cybercrime by North Korea and Russia.
  - We will prioritize the international collaboration that is necessary to confront the global scourge of ransomware, phishing, and other cybercrimes.
  - We will work in partnership with industry to minimize the risks of exploitation of generative AI and other emerging technologies.
  - We will work together with technology companies to maintain tightly controlled lawful access to communications content that is vital to the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes.
- **Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**
  - We affirm that protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse remains the G7's top priority.
  - We acknowledge the strong role of victims' and survivors' voices and the necessity of a whole-of-society approach.
- **Transnational Organized Crime**
  - Taking into account the tendency for transnational organized crime networks to engage in polycriminality, we affirm our commitment to various international cooperation frameworks (e.g., INTERPOL) to fight transnational organized crime.
  - We promote anti-money-laundering measures, including those involving digital assets, through cooperation with related organizations and the private sector both inside and outside Japan.
  - We renew our commitment to fighting against corruption, illicit drugs (including synthetic drugs), irregular migration, and crimes that affect the environment.

## Annex I: G7 Call on Technology Companies to Take Actions to Fight against Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

We, the G7 countries, recognize that online communication services, particularly social media services that are easily accessible to children, are being misused by perpetrators for sexual exploitation of children, as well as the important roles technology companies should play in keeping children safe on their platforms, and call on these companies to step up efforts, including the following:

- Adopting tools to protect child users, such as blocking specific features
- Improving reporting features for users, identification, and removal processes
- Limiting perpetrators' abilities to create new profiles
- Sharing critical evidence with law enforcement agencies
- Guiding children and their caregivers to appropriate resources and support

## Annex II: G7 Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in the Fight against Transnational Organized Fraud

We, the G7 countries, share a recognition of the threats posed by fraud, including online and telephone fraud, and declare our intention to strengthen cooperation among the G7 and our partners with regard to the following measures:

- Preventing the reach and means of fraudsters
- Pursuing organized fraudsters acting transnationally
- Better empowering the public through public relations, awareness building, etc.
- Building international understanding, partnerships, and capabilities
- Creating an international commitment through frameworks and international forums, including the UK-hosted Global Fraud Summit in March 2024

## MEMO

## Mito City's 16 Junior High Schools' Safety Summit

In advance of the G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting in Mito, Ibaraki, 16 junior high school students in Mito City met in November 2023 to discuss the creation of a safe and secure society, with the main themes of disaster control, use of social media, and road safety. On the third day of the G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting, December 10, the 16 students representing their respective schools gave presentations in English on the appropriate use of SNS, taking into account its convenience and risk, in front of the ministers and other participants and handed "A Declaration following Mito City's 16 Junior High Schools' Safety Summit in Mito, Ibaraki" to Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission Matsumura Yoshifumi.



The declaration being handed over

## MEMO

## Introducing the attractions of Japan

A variety of programs were provided during the meeting period to introduce the participants from various countries to the culture, history, food, and *omotenashi* (hospitality) of Japan. Participants were also given opportunities to experience the attractions of Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture, which hosted the meeting, through cultural programs, including a martial arts experience at a dojo designated as a tangible cultural asset by the city, in addition to tasting traditional Japanese dishes featuring ingredients produced in Ibaraki Prefecture.



Welcoming reception



Lunch party



Cultural program