

U.S.-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation on Countering Foreign Information Manipulation

The U.S. Department of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (together, “the Participants”) intend to cooperate as follows:

I. Purpose

Foreign information manipulation poses a threat to all democratic nations guided by shared values and warrants enhanced international cooperation across an array of activities. The United States and Japan are both committed to collaboration aimed at reducing the impact of foreign information manipulation and to building societally and institutionally resilient information ecosystems.

II. Framework for Countering Foreign Information Manipulation

The Participants affirm the following framework for countering foreign information manipulation:

1. Effectively addressing foreign information manipulation depends upon countries going beyond “monitor-and-report” approaches, to include developing and implementing strategies to counter this threat.
2. Marshalling and administering a national-level approach to countering foreign information manipulation benefits from coordinated interagency structures.
3. Effectively countering foreign information manipulation depends upon having the technical means and human capacity needed to maintain awareness of the threat.
4. Civil society, independent media, and academia play essential roles in supporting and informing government-led initiatives to counter foreign information manipulation.
5. Multilateral organizations that are leveraging international cooperation to counter and build resilience against foreign information manipulation are

indispensable to alleviating information and capacity gaps across partner nations.

III. Scope

To deepen the Participants' partnership on these challenges, the Participants intend to establish a bilateral consultation on countering foreign information manipulation, to set the direction for future activity. The activities expected to be carried out through this consultation are outlined in the Implementation Annex to this Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

IV. Implementation, Status, and Discontinuation

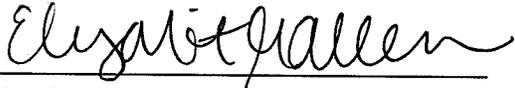
This MoC becomes operative upon signature by both Participants. It may be revised by mutual decision of both Participants in writing. Either Participant may discontinue this MoC through notification in writing to the other Participant. This MoC does not give rise to any rights or obligations under international or domestic law. Any cooperation hereunder is subject to the availability of resources for such purposes.

The Participants intend to exchange information under this MoC in accordance with their respective laws, regulations, and policies. The Participants intend that any information exchanged under this MoC would be provided with an expectation of confidentiality and should not be disclosed outside of the receiving Participant's government, save where disclosure is otherwise required by the receiving Participant's domestic law.

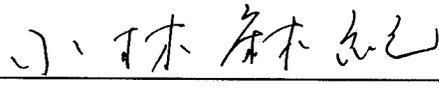
Signed in Tokyo, Japan on December 6, 2023, in English.

FOR THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS:



Elizabeth M. Allen
Undersecretary of State for Public
Diplomacy and Public Affairs
U.S. Department of State



Kobayashi Maki
Press Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Implementation Annex:
U.S.-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation on Countering Foreign Information
Manipulation

Upon signature of this MoC, the Participants intend to carry out a bilateral consultation on countering foreign information manipulation. This consultation is expected to oversee the following activities:

- **Analytic Cooperation:** The U.S. Department of State, through the GEC, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan intend to exchange best practices and harmonize efforts to catalogue instances of foreign information manipulation.
- **Reports Seminar:** The U.S. Department of State, through the GEC, intends to convene a seminar with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan focused on best practices for developing and disseminating exposure reports.
- **Support for Independent Media:** The U.S. Department of State, through the GEC and bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan intend to coordinate complementary support for media outlets operating in austere information environments that are vulnerable to foreign manipulation through access to independent media content, capacity building programs, and/or equipment provision, as appropriate.
- **External Collaboration:** The U.S. Department of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan intend to plan and then implement an effort to counter foreign information manipulation in one or more countries of mutual interest in the Indo-Pacific region, as mutually decided.
- **Multilateral Coordination:** The U.S. Department of State, through the GEC, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan intend to coordinate multilateral counter-propaganda and counter-disinformation activities and priorities with respect to groupings such as the Quad, the G7RRM partners, and the Countering Foreign Interference Summit.

A Directors-Level meeting (in-person or virtual) is expected to convene within three months of the MoC becoming operative to finalize the timing and sequencing of the activities described in this Implementation Annex, and then convene (in-person or virtually) on a quarterly basis to oversee implementation.