

## VI. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

### 1. Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

Considering the current situation where juvenile and heinous crimes occur frequently among the people's everyday lives, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime was established. The first meeting of the Ministerial Meeting was held in September 2003. The Prime Minister presided over this meeting, which was composed of all the Cabinet ministers. The meeting has the mission to take effective, comprehensive, and active measures in close cooperation with the ministries and other governmental agencies concerned with activities against crime in order to restore Japan as the safest country in the world. After the first meeting, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime met often to devise various measures adapted to address the crime situation, with the focus placed on support for action by the public to secure their own safety, development of a social environment where crime is less likely, and various anticrime measures including border measures. In 2013, the Ministerial Meeting formulated a comprehensive strategy titled "Strategy to Make 'Japan the Safest Country in the World'" in light of the changing social conditions that require responses to newly emerging threats, such as cybercrime and cyberattacks, international terrorism, and organizational crime, and had promoted comprehensive measures against crime. As a result, some improvement came to be seen in public order in Japan, as the number of reported crimes fell to approx. one-fifth the level reached in the worst post-war period.

Meanwhile, amid changes in domestic social conditions brought about by a demographic change and advancement of scientific technologies and changes in international circumstances surrounding Japan, new challenges regarding cyberspace, terrorism, and threats against elderly people, women and children are emerging in maintaining public order. Therefore, with the aim of dealing with these challenges appropriately, building public confidence in security, and making Japan the safest country in the world in the coming five years, the Ministerial Meeting newly formulated the "Strategy to Make 'Japan the Safest Country in the World' 2022" in December 2022 (decided by the Cabinet on the same day), and efforts have been made to steadily promote countermeasures against crime.

In March 2023, the 36th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting was held under the circumstances where robbery cases involving suspicious part-time jobs had been occurring broadly and phone fraud cases had become more and more serious. Participants discussed a draft plan for emergency measures against robbery and special fraud cases involving the recruitment of perpetrators on social media, strengthening of measures to prevent break-in by suspicious persons into school premises, and the Secondary Plan for Promoting Prevention of Recidivism.

(Reference) Members of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

Chief: Prime Minister

Members: All the Cabinet Ministers

## 2. Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

Based on a Cabinet decision in January 1997, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse was established in the Cabinet. While the Headquarters actively promoted various measures against drug abuse, such as the securing of close cooperation between concerned administrative authorities, strict control of drugs, and publicity and public awareness for securing public understanding and cooperation, the Headquarters was reorganized and convened as the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime in December 2008.

In order to eradicate drug abuse, the Headquarters decided on the Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in May 1998, the New Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in July 2003, the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in August 2008, and the Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan in July 2010; thus, promoting comprehensive and aggressive measures. By these strategies, certain results were achieved; for instance, the number of young people arrested for abusing methamphetamine or cannabis decreased. Drugs sold as "legal herbs," however, spread and in some cases, users of such drugs committed secondary crimes, and the drugs damaged users' health. Even substances similar to the designated ones have appeared and are easily available on the internet. Given these facts, the Fourth Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy was newly established in August 2013. This strategy aims at the [i] promotion of prevention of drug abuse by raising public awareness or other measures; [ii] prevention of repeated drug abuse through medical treatment or support for rehabilitation for abusers; [iii] eradication of smuggling organizations, strict control of abusers, and strengthening of inspections and instructions; [iv] prevention of drugs from entering Japan through inspection at the border; and [v] international cooperation to prevent the smuggling of drugs. In July 2014, Emergency Measures to Eradicate Dangerous Drug Abuse were compiled as crimes and fatal traffic accidents by dangerous drug abusers came to be recognized as a serious social problem. At present, based on the Fifth Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy, which was decided at the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse held in August 2018, follow-ups are conducted every year.

(Reference) Members of the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

Chief	Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare
Deputy Chiefs	Chair of the National Public Safety Commission
	Minister of Justice
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
	Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Members	Minister of State for Youth Affairs
	Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety
	Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications
	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

### 3. Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

On September 19, 1995, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms was established in the Cabinet, and had promoted measures proactively, while securing close collaboration among relevant administrative organs. In 2008, this headquarters was re-formed as the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime.

In December 1995, an outline for the promotion of measures against firearms, which clarified the basic government policy on measures against firearms, was drawn up. Concerned government agencies have cooperated to proceed with various measures, drawn up promotion plans for each year, and followed up on the progress of the plans.

At present, based on the Five-year Plan on Promotion of Measures against Firearms, which was established in July 2019 in order to materialize measures provided in the outline from a mid- and long-term perspective and implement them strategically, follow-ups are conducted.

#### (Reference) Members of the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

Chief	Chair of the National Public Safety Commission
Members	Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary
	Cabinet Public Relations Secretary
	Director-General of Community Safety Bureau of National Police Agency
	Director-General of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of National Police Agency
	Chief of Organized Crime Department of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of National Police Agency
	Director-General of Minister's Secretariat of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
	Director-General of the Criminal Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Justice
	Deputy Director-General of Immigration Services Agency of Japan
	Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Director-General, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Director-General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance
	Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Agency
	Director-General of Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
	Director-General of Policy Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
	Vice Commandant of Japan Coast Guard
	Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau of Ministry of the Environment