

VII. 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.

Furthermore, in consideration of the recent circumstances concerning damage due to special fraud, investment fraud using SNS, romance fraud, phishing and the like, the Ministerial Meeting rearranged and expansively abolished the Plan for Measures against Phone Fraud and the Plan for Emergency Measures against Robbery and Special Fraud Cases Involving the Recruitment of Perpetrators on Social Media and formulated the Comprehensive Measures for Protecting People from Fraud by adding new measures in June 2024. In December of the same year, in light of the circumstances where robbery cases known as "shady part-time jobs" have been occurring one after another, the Ministerial Meeting newly formulated the "Emergency Measures to Protect Lives and Properties of the People from Incidents such as Robberies Involving So-called 'Shady part-time jobs'" and followed up the implementation status of the Comprehensive Measures.

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

Chief: Prime Minister

Members: All the Cabinet Ministers

2. Council for Promoting Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

In order to eradicate drug abuse, the Headquarters for Promoting Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse, which was established in the Cabinet in January 1997, decided on the Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in May 1998, the New Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in July 2003, and the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in August 2008. After the abolition of the Headquarters, the Council for Promoting Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse, which was established under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime (see 1. above), decided the Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan in July 2010; in this manner, comprehensive and aggressive measures have been promoted. Drugs sold as "legal herbs," however, spread thereafter 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. In July 2014, the 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. Then, the Fifth Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy was established in August 2018 in order to cope with the increase in cannabis-related cases among young people, the increase in volume of smuggling of methamphetamine, and further sophistication and globalization of crime tactics, and in consideration of an expected increase in foreign visitors to Japan on such occasions as the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 and other international events. Furthermore, in August 2023, in light of the current situation with a rapid increase in cannabis-related cases, an increasing recidivism rate among methamphetamine offenders, the spreading abuse of cyberspace, and changes in smuggling modes, the Sixth Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy was established. This strategy aims at [i] prevention of drug abuse by enhancing respect for social norms of all people through awareness-raising activities mainly targeting young people; [ii] prevention of repeated drug abuse through appropriate medical treatment and effective support for rehabilitation for abusers; [iii] eradication of smuggling organizations in and outside Japan, strict control of abusers of cannabis and other drugs, and interruption of distribution of drugs through prompt actions against diversifying abusable drugs; [iv] prevention of smuggling of drugs through strict border controls; and [v] prevention of drug abuse through international collaboration and cooperation as a member of the international community.

(Reference) Members of the Council for Promoting 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 Policies Related to Children, Measures for Declining Birthrate, Youth Empowerment, and Gender Equality 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 Second Five-year Plan on Promotion of Measures against Firearms, which was established in July 2024, follow-ups are being conducted in order to materialize measures provided in the outline from a mid- and long-term perspective and implement them strategically.

(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 of 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 Security 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