

Section  
4

## Establishment of National Security Council

While the security environment surrounding Japan is further increasing in severity, the government is working towards the establishment of a National Security Council which would give fundamental direction for foreign and security policies from a strategic perspective, with a consciousness that it is necessary for the entire Cabinet to work on the strengthening of foreign affairs and the security system of Japan.

The First Abe Cabinet submitted the bill to amend a portion of the Act for Establishment of the Security Council of Japan and other acts to the Diet on April 6, 2007, for the fundamental review of the existing Security Council and the establishment of the National Security Council that would absorb its functions. However, the bill was discarded in January 2008 because of the unfinished deliberation.

With the inauguration of the Second Abe Cabinet in December 2012, Prime Minister Abe expressed his willingness to strengthen the foreign affairs and the security system, such as the establishment of the National Security Council, in the press conference upon his taking office as the Prime Minister. Following this, the first meeting of the Advisory Council on the Establishment of a National Security Council, with the Prime Minister serving as the chair, that is comprised of the Chief Cabinet Secretary (also the Minister in charge of Strengthening National Security), Special Advisor to the Prime Minister (in charge of the National Security Council), and other experts, was held in February 2013. At the beginning of the meeting, Prime Minister Abe stated that it is necessary for the entire Cabinet to work on strengthening foreign affairs and the security system of Japan, and he mentioned his willingness to develop an environment capable of responding swiftly to various issues regarding foreign affairs and the security system under powerful political leadership by establishing a place for discussion reg-

ularly and flexibly from a strategic perspective. At the advisory council, consideration was made—six times in total—and discussion was held on how the NSC should be, including its jurisdiction, purpose, use/policy judgment of intelligence, and form of the National Security Council. In light of these discussions, the government drafted a bill in “The Division for Preparing for the Establishment of the NSC” set in the Cabinet Secretariat, and made a cabinet decision on the bill to the Cabinet decided on “the Act of Partial Revision of the Establishment of the Security Council (the NSC Establishment Act)” on June 7, 2013.

The Ministry of Defense, as a government agency having responsibility for defense policy intends to play an active role in the NSC, which gives fundamental direction or foreign and security policies from a strategic perspective.

**[Outline of NSC Establishment Act]****(1) Establishment of a National Security Council**

Establishing a National Security Council in the Cabinet as an organization to deliberate on important matters regarding the security of Japan

(A partial amendment to the current Act was made to establish the Security Council of Japan and reorganizing the Security Council of Japan)

**(2) Constitution of the Council/Agenda**

## 1) 4-Minister Meeting:

Giving fundamental direction for foreign and defense policies concerning national security. [newly established]

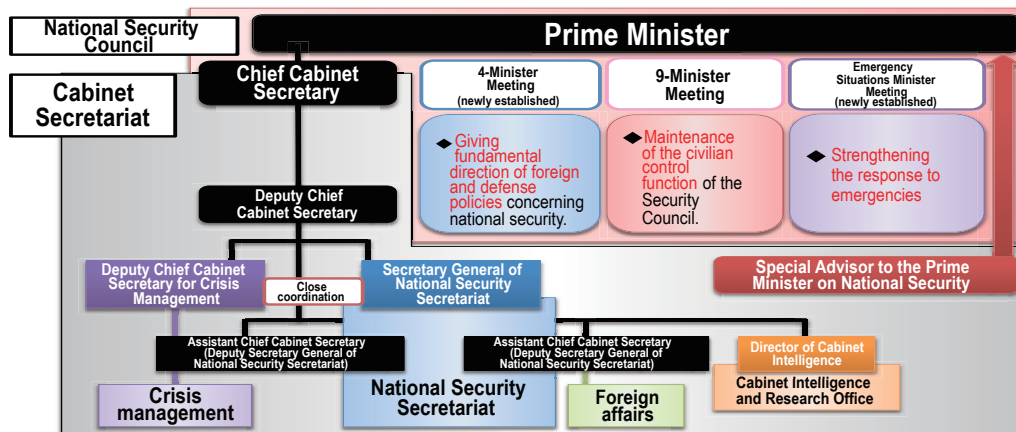
[Members] Prime Minister (Chair), Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense, Chief Cabinet Secretary<sup>1</sup>



Prime Minister Abe participating in the 1st Meeting of the Advisory Council on the Establishment of a National Security Council (February 15, 2013) [Cabinet Public Relations Office]

<sup>1</sup> The Council may have the necessary Minister of State attend any meeting temporarily as a member of the Council.

Fig. II-1-4-1 Organization after the Establishment of National Security Council (schematic image)



[Agenda] Basic principle of foreign and security policies regarding the security of Japan, etc.

2) 9-Minister Meeting:

Maintenance of the civilian control function of the current Security Council of Japan, etc.

[Members] Prime Minister (Chair), Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Minister of Defense, Chief Cabinet Secretary, Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission<sup>1,2</sup>

[Agenda] Important matters regarding national defense<sup>3</sup>

3) Emergency Situations Minister Meeting: Strengthen the response to emergencies [newly established]

[Members] Prime Minister (Chair), Chief Cabinet Secretary, Minister of State designated by the Prime Minister in advance corresponding to the type of matters<sup>1</sup>

[Agenda] Important matters regarding the response to serious emergency situations. (As for an operation itself responding to matters, utilize the existing task force and the crisis-management system centering on the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management)<sup>3</sup>

**(3) Provision of Materials**

The head of each relevant administrative organ shall, pursuant to a decision by the NSC, provide materials and information regarding national security for the NSC.

The NSC shall be able to request the heads of related administrative organs to submit materials and information regarding national security.

**(4) Service Discipline**

In addition to the chair and members of the Council (including former members), Deputy Ministers acting on behalf of the

members, other relevant persons who attended the NSC, and chairpersons of the Special Advisory Committee for Contingency Planning (including former chairpersons) have the obligation to protect confidentiality.

**(5) Attendance of the Relevant Parties**

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security (described later) may attend the NSC and state their opinions with the permission of the Chair.

The Chair may have the Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, and other relevant parties attend the Council and state their opinions.

**(6) Coordinators**

The Council shall include the Coordinators appointed by the Prime Minister from officials of each relevant administrative organ. The Coordinators shall assist the Chair and members in the affairs of NSC.

**(7) Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security**

The Special Advisor to the Prime Minister who is in charge of important policies regarding national security (Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security) shall be established permanently.

**(8) National Security Secretariat**

The National Security Secretariat shall be established in the Cabinet Secretariat to take charge of the planning, drafting and coordinating of fundamental principles and significant matters of foreign and defense policies concerning national security, administrative work, and integrating and compiling materials and information provided for the NSC under (3).

The Secretary General of National Security Secretariat shall perform the special service of a national public officer ranked with the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management. Two Deputy Secretaries General of National Security Secretariat shall be appointed from Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretaries appointed by the Prime Minister.

<sup>2</sup> If the Minister of State (including the Deputy Prime Minister) designated by the Prime Minister in advance to perform duties on behalf of the Prime Minister temporarily in the case of an accident involving the Prime Minister is not a member of the Council, such Minister of State shall also attend the meeting as a member.

<sup>3</sup> In the cases where a particularly urgent response is needed regarding various matters, the Council may make proposals to the Prime Minister on measures found to be necessary for prompt and adequate responses.