



**TRILATERAL STATEMENT BY THE LEGAL OFFICES OF
AUSTRALIA JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND, THE JAPAN JOINT STAFF, AND U.S. INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND**

Senior legal advisors from Australia, Japan, and the United States of America met at Camp Smith, Hawaii between 4-5 December 2023 to collaborate on shared challenges.

In the face of significant emerging regional security challenges, we affirm our shared interest in upholding the rules-based international order and maintaining an open and stable Indo-Pacific underpinned by the rule of law. Our greatest strength in these endeavours is our ability to collaborate with our network of allies and partners across the region, and we recognize, in particular, the robust and deepening security relationships between our three countries.

As senior military legal advisors, we play a critical role in ensuring the legality and legitimacy of the military operations and activities undertaken by our respective forces. As like-minded partners, we are conscious of unilateral actions inconsistent with international law that have raised tensions in the region, and we are committed to building legal consensus between states across the region concerning respect for sovereignty and the exercise of international law, rights and freedoms, while resolving differences peacefully through dialogue and in accordance with international law.

To this end, we commit to continued legal collaboration through bilateral and multilateral talks, working-level staff engagement, and information sharing. We will continue to develop our interoperability through bilateral and multilateral information papers that reflect our positions on significant legal issues, and through combined exercises which will test and enhance our ability to communicate securely, quickly and effectively with one another. Our objective is to work together seamlessly in the conduct of lawful military operations and activities while promoting consensus across the region in the importance of maintaining the rules-based international order.

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Captain Damian Flatt
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