70 Years Since the Party's Founding: The Liberal Democratic Party's History and Mission for the Future

~The LDP's New Vision: Passing on Freedom and Democracy to the Next Generation~

April 12, 2026

Foreword

Our party marked its 70th anniversary on November 15, 2025. We have walked the main road of Japanese politics, consistently operating under the name "Liberal Democratic Party" as a people's party that unites diverse public opinion to move politics forward.

Over the course of our 70-year history, we have faced crises, including losing power, but in the February 2026 House of Representatives general election, we secured a record 316 seats. We would like to once again express our gratitude to our party members, supporters, and the many citizens who have consistently supported and stood by our party, enabling us to achieve an election result that adds a new chapter to postwar political history.

The new vision presented here is a "self-portrait" of the Liberal Democratic Party. The ideals inherited since our founding have not grown stale in the slightest, and we continue to carry the mission of passing on freedom and democracy to the next generation. It is precisely a political system based on freedom and democracy that allows the vitality and ingenuity of the people to be fully realized, leading to the enhancement of national strength. Our party has been founded on this conviction.

This new vision outlines the path our party must take to preserve the order of Japanese society and ensure that a modern political and social system, where people can freely express their views, is passed on to the future. The guiding principle for this path is the ideal expressed in our founding declaration: "Politics belongs to the people."

1. The LDP's Origins and the Values Inherited at its founding

The Liberal Democratic Party was founded on November 15, 1955. By forming a new party known as the “Conservative Merger,” our party has consistently continued its journey as a conservative political party.

What, then, is the definition of conservatism? The “Outline of the Political Philosophy of Conservatism” compiled by the Party’s Basic Issues Research Council in 1960,states.

“The spirit of conservatism lies in actively preserving good traditions and order while eliminating the bad, and in achieving creativity upon tradition and progress within order.

This means that the conservative worldview rejects destructive radicalism, yet also differs from reactionary conservatism, which merely clings to the past and the status quo.”

it states.

Since its founding, our party has consistently regarded it as its mission to uphold the Imperial Family, safeguard freedom and democracy, and achieve both the stability of the people’s lives and the nation’s autonomy and independence. Our founding principles are clear: politics belongs to the people, and under parliamentary democracy, we determine the nation’s course while respecting diverse opinions. We reject violence and totalitarianism and realize progress within order. This is the unshakable backbone of our party.

The conservatism our party has upheld is a matter of “attitude.” Recently, there has been a tendency toward rhetoric that loudly demands radical change or seeks to exclude differing opinions, but we do not consider such attitudes to be conservative.We will continue to uphold the stance established in our founding principles—namely, to “confront the totalitarianism of the far left and far right, which denies the existence of opposition parties and aims for a permanent one-party political system”—and we must resolutely oppose any forces that pursue totalitarianism or an authoritarian state.

The “Paradoxical” Reality of Maintaining Unity

Since its founding, our party has remained the largest party for nearly the entire period. The fact that we have formed a majority without repeated internal splits, even as many politicians have participated and engaged in heated debates that at times have divided the party, has greatly contributed to the maintenance and development of postwar parliamentary democracy. Paradoxically, the unity of our party has been maintained precisely because of the diversity that allows politicians belonging to the party to freely express their own opinions.Politicians belonging to our party have built their own support bases by actively promoting our party’s ideals without becoming overly dependent on the party, and have won elections to enter the arena of national and local politics. As genuine “representatives of the people” who capture a broad spectrum of public opinion rather than relying on specific support bases, our party’s politicians are therefore able to maintain independent stances within the party, and a forum for free and open debate is guaranteed.We listen to the diverse opinions arising from the public’s varied views and work to synthesize them into practical conclusions. Once a conclusion is reached, in accordance with the fundamental principles of parliamentary democracy, we as a party quietly accept that conclusion, unite in solidarity, and strive to implement it. It is precisely because our party has maintained this attitude that we have been able to survive as a national party representing the diverse will of the people.

What is the “freedom” that the LDP has continued to uphold?

In the new party platform compiled in 2010, while we were in the opposition, our assessment of the current situation stated: “Under the banner of freedom and democracy that we have upheld since our founding, we wish to make a fresh start with a political philosophy of Japanese-style conservatism—one that reforms only what is out of step with the times, protects what should be preserved, seeks progress within order, and fulfills our international responsibilities.” This clearly proclaimed that the party adopts “conservatism as its political philosophy.”

At the same time, it also stated; “The freedom (liberalism) we have continued to uphold is neither market fundamentalism nor an unprincipled endorsement of government intervention. Nor is it a culture that indulges selfishness. We wish to reaffirm that it is a freedom composed of the obligations and ingenuity of self-reliant individuals, free choice, respect and tolerance for others, and a spirit of mutual aid.”

What is the difference between the “freedom (liberalism)” referred to in this assessment and “liberal,” which is generally treated as the antonym of “conservative”? Originally, the antonym of “conservative” was “reformist”; “liberal” was never the antonym of “conservative.” The political ideology at the time of the party’s founding was: “We are committed solely to walking the path of parliamentary democracy. Therefore, we resolutely reject all forces or ideologies that employ violence, destruction, revolution, or dictatorship as political means.Second, we establish individual freedom and the dignity of the person as the fundamental conditions of social order. Therefore, we oppose despotism and classism by those in power.”

Making individual freedom and the dignity of the person the fundamental conditions of social order is the “liberty (liberalism)” advocated by our party; for this reason, the word “freedom” in our party’s name is translated into English as “liberal.” This is by no means a laissez-faire, unrestricted freedom.True freedom is founded, above all, on respect for social order and for the history, traditions, and customs that our country has uniquely cultivated. On this basis, we pursue the freedom of the individual—in terms of personal dignity, economic activity, and all other endeavors—to the fullest extent possible.

The Source of a Locally-Rooted People’s Party

Another defining characteristic of our party is that it is a “locally-rooted people’s party.” The origins of this can be traced back to the Freedom and People’s Rights Movement of the Meiji era. As the Meiji Restoration led to the formation of a nation-state, political participation expanded to all sectors and strata of society beyond the samurai class.Wealthy farmers and urban merchants and industrialists formed the party’s support base, leading to the formation of the Liberal Party by Taisuke Itagaki

and the Constitutional Progressive Party by Shigenobu Ōkuma. The formation of these “people’s parties” later evolved into the Constitutional Friendship Association, the Constitutional Government Association, and the Constitutional Democratic Party, paving the way for the party-cabinet system of the Taisho era.

Parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy was severely undermined by the subsequent turmoil in civil-military relations and the establishment of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association. However, after the war, the Seiyukai faction restarted as the Japan Liberal Party, and the Minseito faction as the Japan Progressive Party, leading to the founding of the Liberal Democratic Party ten years later in 1955 through a merger of conservative parties.Our party has conducted politics from the standpoint of the “people”—that is, as a “people’s party” formed through the Freedom and People’s Rights Movement, grounded in the bonds of local communities and the lives of the people. The spirit of our founding declaration, “Politics belongs to the people,” was born from the origins of our party, which are rooted in this history of modern constitutional government.

2. The History of LDP Politics: 70 Years of Growth and Stability

While grounded in a liberal economy, our party has continued to prioritize the public welfare and strive toward the realization of a welfare state. Postwar Japan’s journey—marked by rapid economic growth, the establishment of universal health insurance and pension systems, the expansion of social security, the development of social infrastructure, and the balanced development of the nation—is also the history of our party, which has consistently sought to achieve both growth and stability.

Founded during the transition to the postwar period of rapid economic growth, our party’s founding platform proclaimed: “We shall formulate and implement comprehensive economic plans based on the public welfare as a guiding principle and grounded in individual creativity and corporate freedom, with the aim of ensuring the stability of people’s livelihoods and the realization of a welfare state.” In the section on “The Party’s Character,” it defined itself as “a political party dedicated to realizing a welfare state.”

Seventy years ago, our predecessors sought to achieve economic development under a free-market economy and aimed to realize a welfare state where all citizens could enjoy the prosperity brought about by economic growth. The Kishi Nobusuke Cabinet, formed in 1957, adopted a new long-term economic plan through a cabinet decision, setting forth the goals of maximum growth, improved living standards, and full employment. The Kishi Cabinet established a crucial foundation with the enactment of the National Health Insurance Act and the National Pension Act.These measures formed the foundation of today's "world-class universal health insurance and universal pension system," and the passage of the Minimum Wage Act was also an achievement of the Kishi Cabinet. It is particularly noteworthy that the Kishi administration, without pandering to certain emotional segments of public opinion regarding security issues such as the revision of the security treaties, steadfastly and resolutely implemented its policies while simultaneously pursuing progressive measures, thereby laying the foundation for the welfare state that continues to this day.

The subsequent cabinet of Hayato Ikeda announced the Income Doubling Plan, centered on trade liberalization and export expansion, promotion of capital investment through monetary easing and tax cuts, and the advancement of science and technology, aiming to achieve economic growth and further improve living standards. Japan's GDP surpassed that of France in 1966 and the United Kingdom in 1967, and in 1968, it finally overtook West Germany to become the world's second-largest economy.

Alongside economic growth and the enhancement of social security, our party also placed great importance on fiscal sustainability in governing the nation. As the economy transitioned from high growth to stable growth, we, as a responsible political party, asked the public to shoulder a certain burden. In 2000, anticipating an aging society, we established the Long-Term Care Insurance System, under which the entire society works together to support long-term care.

The realization of the welfare state, which our forebears at the party's founding envisioned as a "master plan for the nation's next hundred years." This was achieved by realizing economic prosperity, ensuring that all citizens could enjoy that

prosperity under stable fiscal management, and promising peace of mind for the future through a sustainable social security system.

Adapting Flexibly to Changing Times

Looking back on our party's history, we have flexibly and accurately grasped all changes in social structure and new needs from the public, adapting to the times. Founded around the time we overcame postwar food shortages, our party has worked to improve the lives of people in rural, mountainous, and fishing communities and ensure a stable food supply.We overcame the wave of globalization, including the liberalization of trade in agricultural, forestry, and fishery products, and devoted our efforts to the development of rural, mountainous, and fishing communities—the "foundation of the nation." Our collaboration with these communities has formed the backbone of our identity as a "people's party rooted in the community." Pollution problems during the period of rapid economic growth had a major impact on society, leading to the enactment of the Basic Act on Pollution Control in 1967. This law was expanded in 1993 to become the Basic Environment Act.Environmental issues are now one of our fundamental policy priorities. Furthermore, whenever disasters that deeply shocked the nation—such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011—have struck, our party has stood by the affected areas and continued to support their recovery efforts.

Japan's Consistent Path as a Peace-Loving Nation

While building a society grounded in stable economic growth, our party has consistently upheld the vision of "Japan as a Peace-Loving Nation." Since the end of World War II, Japan has been a rare nation that has never engaged in armed conflict with another country. Recovering from the war, we began by restoring diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union shortly after our party's founding, followed by the restoration of ties with Southeast Asian nations, South Korea, and China, thereby establishing our position as a member of the free world.In 1972, under the Sato Eisaku Cabinet, we achieved the "return of Okinawa to the motherland." Even after the end of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet

Union, as the international community united to confront international conflicts and terrorism, our country has also fulfilled its responsibilities. This has been maintained through efforts based on realism—rejecting idealistic unilateral pacifism, maintaining self-defense capabilities within the actual international community, and preserving peace through international cooperation.To this day, our party has strengthened the system of self-defense while establishing the legal framework necessary to balance the Japan-U.S. Alliance with international cooperation, thereby building trust as a peaceful nation within the international community. Since our founding, we have sought peaceful resolutions to issues concerning Japan's inherent territories, such as the Northern Territories and Takeshima. We will continue to uphold this stance and make unceasing efforts toward resolving these territorial issues.

The issue of abductions by North Korea is also a matter that our party must confront head-on.It is a source of profound regret that Japanese citizens were abducted by North Korea during a concentrated period around 1975, and that it took approximately 30 years for the first victims to return home. Abductions remain an ongoing, grave human rights violation and an absolutely unforgivable act of state-sponsored crime against a sovereign nation. Our party takes this matter very seriously and will continue to devote all our efforts to resolving it.

3. The Current Situation at Home and Abroad as We Mark Our 70th Anniversary, and the Challenges Our Party Must Address

The international community is currently in the midst of a historic turning point, with the democratic camp facing a crisis due to social divisions, while "America First" policies and authoritarian states are on the rise. We are witnessing a reality where attempts at coercion through force and unilateral changes to the status quo are occurring one after another, and conflicts are raging in various parts of the world. The international order established after the end of the Cold War is undergoing a major transformation.

Japan has safeguarded its economic growth and national peace through the values of liberalism and the free trade system. However, in liberal democracies such as the

United States and Europe, democracy is in a critical state due to severe domestic divisions.The future of the free trade system is also becoming increasingly uncertain due to U.S. tariff measures and economic coercion that disregards international rules, leading to the rise of “anti-globalization” parties around the world. The global economy, which has driven rapid economic development, has reached a major turning point.

The current international situation is shaking the very values our party has upheld. We must confidently demonstrate Japan’s “position” in the international community, one befitting this “turning point in history.” By exercising Japan’s unique autonomy and pursuing strategic diplomacy, we are called upon to protect our national interests and maintain peace and order within the international community.

Our party has championed universal values in the international community, such as a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” and the “rule of law.” Now is the time to reaffirm these values, guide an international community rife with division and conflict toward openness and cooperation, and chart a course for Japanese diplomacy as a force that seeks world peace. In charting the course for Japanese diplomacy in light of the current international situation, where combat and conflicts involving major powers are frequent, national security serves as the foundation.

The Vital Need for Constitutional Revision

First, the preamble to the Constitution of Japan states, “We are determined to preserve our safety and survival by placing our trust in the justice and good faith of the peoples of the world who love peace.” However, given that Russia, a member of the UN Security Council, is currently engaging in acts of aggression, it is clear that we cannot place sufficient trust in justice and good faith.

Now that the postwar international order is undergoing a major transformation, we must defend our country ourselves, clearly demonstrate our resolve as a truly independent nation, and steadfastly protect our nation and its people from the terrors of war and chaos. We must build the capabilities necessary to prepare for crises that threaten the very survival of the nation. Advancing efforts to realize constitutional

amendment—a party principle since our founding—is now more vitally important than ever when considering Japan's national security over the next 30 years.

From its founding, our party has upheld the "voluntary amendment of the current Constitution" as its "mission" and has consistently pursued the realization of constitutional amendment as a core party principle. The Constitution is the foundation that embodies the nation's ideals based on the unique history, culture, and traditions Japan has cultivated, serving as the nation's new "backbone."Eighty years have passed since the end of the war, and seventy years since our party's founding. Now, as the international situation surrounding our country undergoes dramatic upheaval, we must craft the Constitution sourselves, together with the people, and demonstrate to the world the form of nation we aspire to create. Constitutional amendment is not merely a matter of responding to changes in the international community. We must rally the full strength of our party toward its realization, upholding the lofty ideal of shaping a nation befitting the times through our own volition.

Protecting the "welfare state" with economic growth as our foundation

In other countries, widening domestic economic disparities are contributing to significant instability in democracy and could even undermine national order. Japan's universal health insurance and universal pension systems help prevent the widening of such disparities and should therefore be maintained. On the other hand, if maintaining these systems becomes an end in itself, leading to an excessive burden on the public, a decline in disposable income, sluggish domestic consumption, and a slowdown in economic growth, it will have a negative impact on people's lives. Social security is predicated on economic growth, and our party's fundamental policy is to combine mutual aid and public assistance while grounding our approach in self-reliance and independence.

Economic growth is the starting point for everything. Our party is currently implementing economic policies aimed at breaking free from a low-growth economy and bringing greater prosperity and security to people's lives by shifting toward "responsible expansionary fiscal policy" and rebuilding a strong economy. While

demonstrating our commitment to economic policies that generate revenue for the nation, we are also prioritizing economic security policies to ensure Japan's autonomy and indispensability in economic areas such as energy resources and food.In safeguarding the security of people's lives, protecting lives and property from frequent disasters is also a critical challenge.

Achieving economic growth and maintaining a sustainable social security system are the most fundamental roles of parliamentary democracy, entrusted to us by the people, the sovereign. Amid a declining population, we will realize a prosperous life for the people and ensure public peace of mind and social order through a sustainable social security system. Striving to balance economic growth with the security of social security is the vital "Torch for the Future" that our party, founded with the aim of "completing the welfare state," has carried forward for 70 years.

We will pass this torch on to the next generation without letting it go out. To that end, we must reaffirm the role of politics in maintaining the form of the state and realize "true prosperity"—free from anxiety and guaranteed by the sustainability of our systems—not only through "economic wealth" but also by sharing a certain burden among the people. We must also make repeated efforts to explain this necessity with courage.At the same time, creating and implementing a social security system befitting this new era is also the mission of our party, a conservative party that seeks progress within order. In addition to the prosperity our party has brought to Japanese society thus far, we will guarantee the people the security of a sustainable economic and social system. With the pride that comes from having continuously held power as the ruling party, our party will continue to tackle the monumental task of building the nation for the next century.

Carrying Forward the Foundations of Nation-Building ~ Nation-Building Is People-Building ~

In maintaining a sustainable economy and society, a major challenge is addressing the onset of a full-scale population decline. It is the vital mission entrusted to our party—a national party rooted in local communities—to formulate strategies that envision a prosperous future for local communities, including measures to address

the declining birthrate to nurture the children who will shoulder the next generation, and to pass on the diverse cultures and traditions of our regions to future generations.

Human resource development is the foundation of all nation-building. It goes without saying that the education and development of young people—who will shape the next generation—are of paramount importance for our resource-poor nation. As a political party responsible for Japan's future, our party will present to the public a vision for education befitting this new era and work to realize it.

4. The Determination to Carry On History as a "People's Party"

Our party has consistently embodied the ideal of a people's party and has walked the path as a responsible party bearing the burden of Japan's order and governance. The origins of this can be found in Japan's long history.

The Japanese people have cherished their traditions and culture, worked diligently in their daily lives to generate wealth, and supported one another in their communities to raise the next generation. By standing alongside these daily endeavors, representing diverse voices, and uniting diverse values—such as those of urban and rural areas, and young and elderly people—into a single policy, we have literally brought these efforts to fruition. This is precisely why our party has established itself as a community-rooted political party with an organizational network extending to every corner of the nation.The fact that we are not a party representing a specific class or ideology is also one reason we have been able to garner such broad support.

Discovering Democracy in Japan's Original Landscape

The cultural distinctiveness of our country can also be seen in its history of settlement. The history of settlement on the Japanese archipelago is said to have begun approximately 16,000 years ago during the Jomon period. Surrounded by the sea on all sides and able to obtain a diverse range of food from the forests, people have settled and formed societies on the Japanese archipelago since the very beginning.Through a way of life in which people helped one another and shared water and food, harmony and a coexistence marked by reverence for nature were

fostered. This “life of harmony and bonds,” in which communities support one another while working in harmony with the cycles of nature, has been passed down to the present day.

These characteristics, rare even on a global scale, have manifested throughout history as an attitude that values democratic decision-making, as seen in the phrase “Harmony is to be held in high esteem” from the Seventeen-Article Constitution of the Asuka period and the statement “All matters shall be decided by public debate” from the Five-Article Oath of the Meiji Restoration.Some people mistakenly believe that Japan’s democracy was imposed by the United States during the postwar occupation, but as mentioned earlier, our long history has always contained a unique form of democracy. The fact that we have consistently maintained freedom and democracy while achieving economic growth since the war proves the historical consistency of this “Japanese-style” democracy.

The Fundamental Mission of Preserving the Imperial Lineage: Politics Serves Culture

The Imperial Lineage, which has continued for over 2,600 years, embodies the unique character of Japan that has been passed down from our ancestors. Bound by the trust and reverence of the people, our Imperial Lineage is the very embodiment of Japan’s unbroken history, intertwined with prayers for the peace and well-being of the nation. As a political party that upholds conservative ideals, it is our fundamental mission to carry on this history and tradition—a mission that also reflects the hopes of many citizens.

The distinctive Japanese products nurtured within this traditional culture have garnered affection around the world. In fact, the vibrant ideas of young people are giving rise to a “New Japanese Culture” that is sweeping the globe.Content such as anime, games, and music exemplifies this. True to the saying that “politics serves culture,” our party resolutely opposes unjust regulations that undermine freedom of speech and expression. By protecting and passing on regional traditional cultures, as well as Japan’s unique history and customs that have continued since ancient times,

we will increase opportunities for the younger generation to discover new creative ideas from that history and culture.We conclude that the values a conservative party must protect extend beyond the political system to the very form of the nation of “Japan” itself—including its culture and society.

This is politics grounded in the founding principle that “ politics is for the people.” It is precisely this that will pass down a “Japan” founded on freedom and democracy to the future.

5. The Mission the LDP Must Fulfill for the Future: Protecting Freedom and Democracy

The aforementioned outline of conservative political philosophy cites “freedom” and “democracy” as the “one good treasure” gained, despite the great sacrifices the Great War imposed on the people. Now, as freedom and democracy are no longer taken for granted in the world, we must once again reflect deeply on the words left by our predecessors over 60 years ago.

During the war, our nation experienced an era in which freedom of speech and the freedoms of assembly and association were severely restricted, and parliamentary democracy was unable to function. Postwar democracy took its first steps amidst the devastation brought about by defeat and the humiliation and sense of loss endured by the people. Passing on these “precious treasures”— —to the next generation is the very foundation of the mission entrusted to our party.

In modern society, where information crosses borders at a speed unprecedented in human history, freedom and democracy are exposed to various risks. The dismantling of knowledge—such as the pursuit of disorder and simplicity—and the sense of alienation arising from the loss of connections between people, regions, companies, and organizations within society could pose risks to freedom and democracy in the future. The trend that accentuates these risks and simplifies everything is populism.

Confronting Populism

It is essential for political parties to communicate policies and political positions in a way that is easily understood by the electorate in order to gain support. However,

if this is not accompanied by a sense of moderation, a sense of responsibility to maintain a minimum level of order, and the tolerance to accept views different from one's own , it must be regarded as dangerous populism.The order of modern society, while seemingly self-evident at first glance, is in fact built upon a fragile and ephemeral balance. The destruction of such order has manifested itself in wars throughout history, and our country also experienced this in the form of the collapse of freedom during the last war.

Our party has a responsibility to prevent Japanese society from falling into chaos due to irresponsible words and actions that stoke social unrest and political distrust without any basis. To achieve this, we must bridge the gap with the people and ensure that the sovereign people understand that our party is a people's party that represents them.If the public comes to view our party as one that represents specific social strata or classes, we will likely lose our current standing with alarming speed. Confronting irresponsible populist politics actually means humbly re-examining our own foundations and constantly questioning our position as a people's party and a responsible party.

Confronting the Evolution of AI to Protect "Human Endeavors"

In passing on freedom and democracy to the next generation, another point to bear in mind is the development of artificial intelligence (AI). AI not only brings significant changes to economic and social structures but also has the potential to bring about a major turning point in the history of human civilization. In the past, scientific progress has led to substantial increases in productivity and the liberalization of technology and ideas within capitalism and market economies. At the same time, we have also experienced how advances in science and technology can pose major crises to human history.The use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused a catastrophe unprecedented in human history. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that nuclear deterrence continues to play a certain role in maintaining the international order.

There are predictions that AI will acquire capabilities surpassing human intelligence within the next few years. Our party will proactively and actively utilize

AI as a tool to solve social issues, working to enhance the convenience of daily life for both young people and the elderly, as well as for residents of both urban and rural areas. Without succumbing to pessimism regarding the evolution and implementation of AI, taking the lead in building a society that fully harnesses its capabilities is one of the important roles expected of our party for the future.

While AI and digital technology bring new possibilities to democracy, attempts to undermine the legitimacy of democracy through foreign interference using AI and the dissemination of malicious disinformation and misinformation are becoming a reality. It is essential to protect a healthy democracy from these influences. Furthermore, there is a possibility that highly advanced AI could lead to the formation of an authoritarian political system in our country, one in which individuals are managed and controlled, and personal freedoms are suppressed.To protect Japanese society, which is founded on freedom and democracy, we must persistently engage in the steady work of maintaining and enhancing trust in politics. The exercise of political power is a “human endeavor” that involves reconciling complex interests and maintaining social order. This requires an eye for the socially vulnerable, the humility to listen to minority opinions, and the resolve to take responsibility for the outcomes.To ensure that the public does not come to view AI as more trustworthy than the “human endeavor” of politics—which our party has cultivated by gathering grassroots voices from local communities and building consensus—it is crucial that our party, which currently holds power, adopt an even more humble and attentive stance toward the public’s perspective and earn their trust in the conclusions reached through careful consensus-building. In today’s political landscape, constant efforts to sustain and enhance trust in party politics are indispensable, even as the times change.Our party will reflect humbly on past incidents that undermined public trust in politics, renew our pledge to prevent such occurrences, and work to restore and enhance that trust.

Exercising Power Appropriately Through Careful Consensus-Building

Freedom and democracy exist in a state of tension. If individual freedom is prioritized above all else, social order will collapse. If democracy is uncritically

embraced as a panacea, individual freedom may well be restricted by majority rule.Our party is a political party that represents a flexible and pluralistic Japanese society woven from diverse values. To fully harness that pluralism and build a free and vibrant society, it is inappropriate to exercise power excessively, just as it is inappropriate to disperse power excessively. While maintaining a perspective that spans the past, present, and future, we will exercise power appropriately through careful consensus-building that reconciles complex interests and synthesizes a broad spectrum of public opinion. . Is there any other political party besides ours—composed of independent, diverse individuals who have embodied conservative politics—that can take on such challenges and exercise power with humility?

Our party, which has developed a Japanese-style democracy even as freedom and democracy have been severely shaken and the international community has become increasingly complex, has a significant role to play. In today's world, where nations are eager to maximize their own interests, Japan has consistently sought a free and open international order. For Japan, a maritime nation, maintaining a free and open international order is vital to our national interests.We will defend our territory and sovereignty while upholding the international order through the rule of law. Advancing Japanese diplomacy that articulates this moral imperative and reconciles the interests of various nations has never been more important. As the post-Cold War international community becomes increasingly pluralistic, our party will continue to pursue Japan's national interests and peace as a political party that embodies national peace and coexistence through a blend of pacifism and realism that leverages Japan's unique characteristics.

Conclusion: The Challenge of "Toko-waka"—Changing What Must Be Changed and Preserving What Must Be Preserved

Our party's "conservative politics" is not mere nostalgia. The Ise Grand Shrine, which has continued for over 1,300 years, repeating its ritual relocation every 20 years. Its philosophy is expressed as "Tokowaka" (eternal youth); by constantly renewing itself to preserve its long-standing traditions, it has conveyed a vibrant vitality to the present day. This is precisely the conservative politics our party should

embody. Our party has walked alongside the people with the pride and confidence in Japan inherited from our forebears. In a mature nation like Japan, we humbly heed the wisdom and lessons of our predecessors, who overcame countless hardships, while constantly envisioning new ideals. It is this unceasing self-improvement and the inclusiveness that unites diverse public opinion that can be said to be the tradition of our party.

It is the diverse talent within our party—which stands with the people—that will continue to carry on these fine traditions. Our party, which has absorbed diverse voices and channeled them into the greater good, has been sustained by the unity of the diverse talent that has emerged in response to the changing times. While embracing a variety of individual perspectives, we aim for responsible politics without resorting to extremism.We remain firmly rooted in the people and stand from their perspective. It is precisely because we are a people's party, rooted in the community and always positioned at the center of the people—never wavering from this fundamental stance, maintaining balance amid societal transformation—that we have established our status as a party the people can trust with confidence.

The children living today will eventually usher in the 22nd century. Our party will uphold a political system based on freedom and democracy, and continue to take on the challenges necessary to create the value of "Japan"—a free, open, and irreplaceable nation in the world . Together, we will preserve the certainty and prosperity of Japan's future and pass that future on to the young people who will shoulder it.On the occasion of our 70th anniversary, we hereby pledge to share this resolve with all party members and the people of Japan, and to continue fulfilling the mission that has been passed down for 70 years.