

## China Warns Japan, Philippines Over Maritime Delimitation Talks Plan



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BEIJING, May 31 (Xinhua)—Japan and the Philippines’ announcement to begin talks on delimiting their so-called exclusive economic zone and continental shelf has drawn criticism for infringing China’s maritime rights and undermining regional stability.

The move is described as sensitive and inconsistent with international law, as the waters involved

are linked to Taiwan and surrounding maritime areas, involving China's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction. China said no bilateral arrangement can be made at the expense of a third party's lawful rights in disputed maritime regions.

Beijing stressed such issues must be handled under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea through consultations with all relevant parties. It said Japan and the Philippines are moving ahead unilaterally despite China's position.

The statement noted historical and legal complexities surrounding maritime claims, including issues linked to the Philippine northern islands and Japan's Nansei and Ryukyu areas.

China accused both countries of politicizing maritime issues while pursuing security cooperation with external forces. It warned such actions risk escalating tensions and miscalculation.

Beijing said disputes should be resolved through dialogue based on international law and mutual respect, rather than unilateral arrangements.

It urged Japan and the Philippines to stop what it called wrongful actions and return to regional peace and stability.