



INSTITUT DE FRANCE
Académie des sciences

President of the French *Académie des sciences*
23, quai de Conti
75006 Paris, France



Paris, March 14, 2023

Dear President,

The French Academy of sciences has been made aware of the wish of the Government of Japan to pass an amendment which would modify the selection procedure of members of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ).

Academies of sciences worldwide – among which is SCJ – represent their scientific communities nationally and internationally. In order to accomplish properly their mission they act independently from any political influence and are autonomous when managing their internal organization.

Thus, interfering in the election process of one of these academies represents a threat to scientific institutional autonomy and academic freedom, both of which are critical for providing sensible advices in the development of science-based strategies for our societies. These processes are central to promoting and preserving democratic values in these days of international tension.

We deeply wish the Japanese government would reconsider any legislative measures that would encroach on the principles of academic freedom and autonomy.

Your sincerely,

Alain FISCHER
President

Dr. KAJITA Takaaki
President, Science Council of Japan

