Preamble

Japan and the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter referred to as "Switzerland"),

hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

RECOGNISING that a dynamic and rapidly changing global environment brought about by globalisation and technological progress presents various economic and strategic challenges and opportunities to the Parties;

CONSCIOUS of their longstanding friendship and ties that have developed through many years of fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation and convinced that this Agreement will open a new era for their relationship;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their obligations under international law, including those set out in the United Nations Charter, and with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

BELIEVING that their bilateral relationship will be enhanced by forging a mutually beneficial economic partnership through trade liberalisation, trade facilitation and cooperation;

CONVINCED that the economic partnership will provide a useful framework for enhanced cooperation, serve their common interests in various fields as agreed in this Agreement and lead to the improvement of economic efficiency and the development of trade, investment and human resources;

RECOGNISING that such a partnership will create larger and new markets, and enhance the attractiveness and dynamism of their markets;

RECALLING Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services in Annex 1A and Annex 1B, respectively, to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994;

RECOGNISING the importance of ensuring security in international trade without creating unnecessary obstacles to trade and of further deepening cooperation between the Parties in that field;

DETERMINED, in implementing this Agreement, to seek to preserve and protect the environment, to promote the optimal use of natural resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development and to adequately address the challenges of climate change;

BELIEVING that this Agreement lays the foundation for further invigoration of cooperation between them in various economic fields; and

DETERMINED to establish a legal framework for an economic partnership between them;

HAVE AGREED as follows: