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To: European Strategy Group

I am writing as Chair of High Energy Physics Committee (HEPC), which represents Japan Association of High Energy Physicists (JAHEP) -- the Japanese HEP community, to communicate our thoughts regarding the recent note prepared by the Strategy Update Secretariat, "Towards an update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics" (CERN/ESG/05b). The following points summarize our discussion at a recent HEPC meeting.

- The European Strategy is critically important for the future developments of worldwide high energy physics beyond Europe.
- We sincerely appreciate that ILC was highly regarded as one of the important future projects in the previous European Strategy Update in 2013. The strong support for ILC by the European community expressed in the Strategy Update 2013 built the firm basis for the following developments of the project and serious supports by various sectors in Japan including the government.
- We fully agree that a Higgs Factory is the most important next large-scale particle physics facility. ILC is the most advanced candidate to the best of our knowledge.
- We therefore would like to ask for the European community's continuing support for ILC. We are committed to further strengthening our efforts and activities in Japan towards its realization.
- We also consider it crucial to start preparations for a next-generation hadron collider beyond LHC. The Japanese community intends to contribute to important R&D such as those for superconducting magnets.
- Global cooperation is essential. The Japanese community wishes to continue exploring the future of particle physics together with our friends in Europe and other regions with a global vision.

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