

Statement by Mr. NAKATANI Shinichi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the Aswan Forum

Thank you, Excellency.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to offer a few remarks, on this memorable occasion, on behalf of the Government of Japan. At the outset, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Egypt and the CCCPA (Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Africa) for hosting and organizing the Aswan Forum, under the strong leadership of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi.

I was saddened by reports that more than seventy soldiers lost their lives by an attack on a military camp in Niger on Tuesday night. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to those who passed away, and convey my sympathy to the families of the victims. Such violent acts cannot be justified for any reason and must be resolutely condemned.

I served as a Ground Self-Defense Force officer prior to my career as statesman, and am aware of the importance of peace and security. Before coming to Egypt for this forum, I visited Tunisia and Senegal, in my current capacity as a Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and there, thoroughly discussed outstanding issues this Continent faces.

As introduced by Mr. Philip Parham, TICAD is a forum for Africa's development, initiated by Japan in 1993, ahead of other countries. Japan successfully hosted TICAD7 in August this year, in Yokohama, under the co-chairmanship of Egypt as AU Chair. We focused on the three pillars of, economy, society, as well as peace and stability.

In response to the question regarding the partnership with Africa, the theme of this session, corresponds with two key principles of TICAD: Africa's ownership, and international partnership. I believe those principles set a model, in pursuit of a meaningful partnership modality.

In this regard, Japan highly values Egypt's initiative, for advocating future-oriented cooperation, with the international community.

Japan also appreciates the leadership of Egypt, in convening the Aswan Forum, the first of its kind in the AU framework, addressing the issues of security, poverty, and development, out of the challenges Africa faces.

Now let me touch upon Japan's initiative of a New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa, or "NAPSA", announced by Prime Minister Abe at the Opening Session of TICAD7. NAPSA consists of the following two basic principles:

First, NAPSA attaches importance to Africa's ownership, in conflict prevention and mediation. In the past, the international community tended to "preach" the importance of democracy, human rights, and good governance, which are, certainly, key to

achieve lasting peace and stability.

Nonetheless, simply imposing those norms on local actors from outside, ended up not producing the desirable outcomes. It is important that African leaders and actors themselves are in the driver's seat to conceive and create solutions. This is why we launched NAPSA.

Second, NAPSA focuses on addressing root causes of conflicts in Africa. While measures of symptomatic treatment may bring about temporary tranquility, such stability is like a house of cards. We need to identify root causes which hamper the realization of peace and stability in Africa, and solve outstanding issues to achieve a lasting peace.

Based on these two principles, Japan will carry out the following three specific efforts.

First, Japan will support Africa-led efforts for conflict prevention and mediation in cooperation with the AU, RECs and other partners.

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Plus, Japan will continue to support capacity building for Africa's peacekeeping operations, through the framework of the UN Triangular Partner Project.

Second, Japan also seeks to strengthen national institutions and enhance their governance.

Third, Japan will work with Africa to enhance resilience of local communities, and make efforts to prevent youth radicalization.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me move on to demonstrate Japan's engagement under NAPSA, in concrete terms, to help promote sustainable development and stability in Africa.

Japan's contribution to PKO training centers in Africa, extends over 15 countries. The number of peacekeepers who benefited from our assistance, amounts to more than 16,000, from 2013 to 2017.

In particular, Japan has provided more than 11 million US dollars,

and dispatched 15 Japanese experts as lecturers, for CCCPA here in Egypt, in order to enhance capacity building, of those engaged, in peacekeeping missions.

Japan also dispatched, in April 2019, two Ground Self-Defense Force officers to the command of the Multinational Force and Observers, which is tasked with monitoring the cease-fire between Israel and Egypt on the peninsula. They are currently in operations on the ground, with close cooperation from the Government of Egypt.

In addition to such engagements, Japan's Self-Defense Force, based in a facility in Djibouti, for counter-piracy operations, off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, represents Japan's proactive contribution to peace.

In South Sudan, Japan contributes to the peace process in partnership with IGAD and the UN by providing financial contribution as well as dispatching staff personnel to UNMISS.

In order to address root causes of the conflict in South Sudan, Japan has proposed to bolster institution building and human resource development, in the judiciary and security sectors, toward national reconciliation, in the true sense of the word.

In Somalia, as part of the Horn of Africa, Japan has provided more than 100 million US dollars for maintenance of public order, including through assistance to Somalia police and border control.

In the Central African Republic, Japan supported the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation through the AU peace fund.

All these efforts, underpinned by NAPSA, that I mentioned are expected to promote peace and stability of the regions and also to contribute to “Silencing the Guns by 2020” as AU’s flagship project of Agenda 2063.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan takes initiatives, not only in NAPSA, but also in various efforts for human resources development, all over the African Continent.

For instance, in Egypt, where the youth population amounts to two-thirds of its population, Japan promotes Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology, or E-JUST, on higher education. We will receive 150 African students at E-JUST from 2020 under the collaboration between Japan and Egypt.

Japan has also introduced Tokkatsu at Egypt-Japan schools in Egypt. “Tokkatsu” in Japanese, means an essential component in the Japanese education curriculum, to develop social, emotional, physical, and academic aspects of children.

For example, various activities are introduced through “Tokkatsu”, such as the daily cleaning of the classroom by students, as well as interactive classroom discussion between teachers and students. Japan willingly contributes to this project, and we expect that



“Tokkatsu” in Egypt will be one of the education models to empower the youth in Africa as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope that the recommendations, to be proposed at the Forum will bring about tangible outcomes to promote partnership between Africa and the international community based on the rule of law.

I firmly believe that, together with freedom of navigation and free trade, the rule of law constitutes one of the fundamental principles to safeguard international order. In particular, we must uphold the rule of law in every sea in the world, including the East and South China Seas. Any unilateral attempts to alter the status quo as well as acts of intimidation against other parties cannot be accepted.

Let me conclude, by reiterating my hope, for further development of the Aswan Forum.

Japan is committed to continued engagement and participation to

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the Forum as a strategic partner. As Africa regards Japan as a partner, Japan spares no efforts for further extending our cooperation with you, and the entire continent.

Thank you very much.

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