

Statement by H.E. Mr. Kentaro Sonoura,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
at the Joint Press Statement for the Fifth
Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative
Unit for the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity”,
7 September 2016

We, the four parties, have concluded the Ministerial Meeting of the Four-party Consultative Unit for the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” Initiative, which took place for the first time in three years. While there was a diverse range of opinion, the four parties agreed on the importance of progress of the initiative with a unified voice.

With regard to the details of the meeting, please see the Chair’s summary which has been circulated. I would like to emphasize the following to the media and citizens:

We, the four parties, conducted last ministerial meeting in 2013 in a positive atmosphere that coincided

with the resumption of peace talks. On the other hand, today, this ministerial meeting was convened under difficult circumstances and without clear political direction, resulting from the suspension of the peace talks. Even so, representatives from Palestine, Israel, and Jordan reaffirmed their cooperation for peace and prosperity in the whole region and adopted the Chair's summary.

This fact, without doubt, has had a profound significance of its own. The importance of cooperation among the four parties has not faded in the least.

The cooperation among the four of us has lasted for 10 years through every political situation because of our common wish for regional development and prosperity as well as peace for the people living in the region.

I believe that the accumulated goodwill, derived from such cooperation, will surely contribute to confidence building and development of the political process. Japan continues to be committed to peace and prosperity in the

region.

I would like to conclude my address by extending my sincere gratitude to all representatives who gathered today and contributed to the meeting despite these complicated circumstances: His Excellency Mr. al-Sheikh, His Excellency Mr. Hanegbi and Secretary General Dr. Kharabsheh.

Thank you so much, Shukran jazīlan, Toda rava and Arigatou gozaimashita.