

Joint Press Statement between Japan and the Republic of Mozambique

February 21, 2012

1. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda of Japan and Prime Minister Aires Bonifácio Baptista Ali of the Republic of Mozambique met, in Tokyo, on February 21, 2012 for discussions on bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest. They shared the view that the relationship between Japan and the Republic of Mozambique is stronger than ever against the backdrop of increasing high-level engagement and affirmed their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral partnership.

2. Prime Minister Ali expressed his appreciation for Japan's long-standing engagement with Africa and reaffirmed the intention to work closely with Japan to promote African development in the lead-up to TICAD V to be held in Yokohama in June 2013. Prime Minister Ali confirmed that Mozambique will be represented by the President of the Republic in TICAD V. Prime Minister Ali also expressed deep appreciation for Japan's determination to implement the pledges made in TICAD IV, while it is making efforts to overcome the Great East Japan Earthquake.

3. Prime Minister Noda expressed his commitment to continue to assist Mozambique's development efforts including the implementation of the PROSAVANA project and infrastructure development in the Nacala Corridor Development.

4. Both sides emphasized that the private sector plays a vital role in the economic development of Mozambique and expressed satisfaction for the growing interest of the Japanese private sector in Mozambique in a wide range of areas including natural resource development. In this context, both sides recognized the need to promote private sector investment from Japan to Mozambique, and decided to commence negotiations on a bilateral investment agreement.

5. Furthermore, both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and the Ministry of Mineral Resources of the Republic of Mozambique that aims at establishing a general framework of concrete activities and future directions to promote the mutually beneficial and strategic partnership in mineral resources, coal, oil and natural gas sectors.

6. Prime Minister Ali welcomed Japan's willingness to host Japan-SADC infrastructure investment seminar on March 14, 2012 that aims to mobilize private sector resources to meet the growing demand for infrastructure development in the SADC region, including Mozambique.

7. Prime Minister Noda confirmed his intention to continue exchanging views with Mozambique and other SADC countries about the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting Terrestrial (ISDB-T).

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