

**Statement by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama**

**On the occasion of the Conference on the Reconstruction of Gaza
(October 12th, Cairo)**

1 Opening Remarks

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and respect for all the efforts of the Government of Egypt and the Government of Norway in holding this conference. I would also like to express my heartfelt condolences to the victims of the recent confrontation in the Gaza Strip.

I attend this conference on behalf of the Government of Japan upon instruction from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Fumio Kishida, who unfortunately had to stay in the country to address urgent official affairs.

2. “International Support Mechanism”

It is extremely regrettable that civilians have lost their lives in the recent situation in Gaza. It is necessary to consolidate the ceasefire in order to prevent the reoccurrence of such tragedy and to achieve reconstruction of Gaza through governance of the Palestinian Authority. In this context, Japan welcomes the Mechanism of Materials Monitoring which was agreed upon among the United Nations, Israel and Palestine, as we regard it as the basis for reconstruction.

Moving forward, it is essential to establish an international mechanism along with a solid follow-up system. The purpose of the “International Support Mechanism” which Japan proposes is to assure sustainable ceasefire and achieve a smooth reconstruction process. This mechanism consists of three pillars: Border Control and Security Arrangement, Humanitarian Aid and Rehabilitation, and Governance and

Human Resources Development. Japan is ready to work together with the concerned parties to realize this idea.

Moreover, the reconstruction process should lead to the resumption of Middle East peace talks and the stabilization of the entire Middle East. We call on the concerned parties to continue the consultations for the resumption of the peace talks. At the same time, we underline once again our position to oppose any action that hinders the resumption of the peace talks.

3. Pledge

Ladies and gentlemen, the international community must combine its efforts to rebuild Gaza. Japan, which has provided 1.47 billion dollars in total since the 1993 Oslo Accord, is determined to contribute at every stage of the Gaza reconstruction process.

This year, Japan announced 200 million US dollars as a new pledge for Palestinian assistance on the occasion of the Second Ministerial meeting for the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestine Development (CEAPAD). I emphasize that Japan has already disbursed 70 million dollars.

After the recent confrontation in Gaza, Japan provided emergency assistance worth of 7.8 million US dollars. Furthermore, Japan will provide an additional 20 million dollars which will be used for the removal of rubble, and in the areas of food supply and social and economic development. We intend to steadily implement the pledges, as ‘a nation that implements its pledges without fail’.

4. Unique efforts by Japan

Japan has also been working on unique efforts to stabilize the social and economic situation in Palestine.

CEAPAD was established under Japan’s initiative in 2013 as a

consultative framework to mobilize Asian countries' knowledge and resources in assisting the Palestinians. Two ministerial meetings have already been held, and assistance through cooperation among Asian countries confirmed in CEAPAD is steadily being implemented.

I would also like to mention that five companies are now constructing their factories at the site of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park project, one of the central projects of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity", on which Japan is cooperating with Israel, Palestine and Jordan. This project will create 7,000 jobs and 20,000 beneficiaries in the future.

Moreover, Japan has invited more than 180 Israeli and Palestinian youths to visit Japan, as a youth exchange program, which I believe has contributed to the building of mutual trust between the two sides.

Japan will promote cooperation and confidence-building, as well as provide hope for the future among people through such concrete and steady efforts.

5. Conclusion

I hope that this conference will be a huge step to realizing a 'two state solution'. Japan will spare no effort in the reconstruction of Gaza. Thank you.

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