

Foreign Minister Motegi's Visit to Tunisia, Mozambique, South Africa and Mauritius

1. Overview

January 2021
African Affairs Department
Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau

- From December 8th to 14th 2020, Minister Motegi visited Tunisia, the host country of 2022 TICAD8, and three south-eastern African countries facing the Indian Ocean, for the first time since he assumed the office of Foreign Minister.
- It was the first visit by a Japanese Foreign Minister to Mauritius and also the first visit to South Africa in 10 years.
- Foreign Minister Motegi undertook the following meetings during his visit: a courtesy call on the President and the Head of the Government and a meeting with the Secretary of State in Tunisia; a courtesy call on the President and a Foreign Ministers' meeting in Mozambique; a Foreign Ministers meeting and a telephone talk with the President in South Africa; and a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and a Foreign Ministers meeting in Mauritius.

2. General Outcome

Minister Motegi strongly promoted "diplomacy with a sense of caring and robustness" in Africa, through the following aspects:

- (1) Shared views on cooperation to achieve a "free and open Indo-Pacific" with high-level officials in each country.
- (2) Confirmed Japan's support for the economy in Africa and collaboration in promoting business to strengthen business relations toward the post-COVID19 period, while supporting the COVID-19 counter measures.
- (3) Confirmed cooperation and collaboration toward TICAD8 through TICAD process, including with Tunisia as the TICAD8 host country.
- (4) Exchanged views on the situation of North Korea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and shared views on continuing to cooperate closely. Minister Motegi also asked for continued understanding and cooperation toward the early resolution of the abductions issue, and obtained support from each country.



Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Motegi expressed his intention to continue supporting the economic cooperation that facilitates the reforms for socio-economic stabilization by the Government of Tunisia. Both sides shared the view to strengthen bilateral ties including economic relationship toward TICAD8 and signed the Exchange of Notes for the grant aid <u>to provide two vessels for fishery surveillance.</u> Both sides also exchanged views on the regional situations, including Libya and agreed to continue the close coordination between the two countries toward the stability and the prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa region.
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both sides shared views on the importance of the Nacala Port development, on which both Japanese public and private sectors have cooperated. Minister Motegi informed that he planned to dispatch a Public-Private Sector Joint Mission in February 2021 and requested <u>further efforts by the Government of Mozambique to improve the security situation in the Cabo Delgado Province.</u> In response, the Mozambique side stated the government would strengthen its security measures in the Province. Minister Motegi expressed his hope to contribute to regional peace and security through capacity building of maritime law enforcement. The two Ministers signed and exchanged notes for three grant aid projects, namely: <u>(1) assistance for providing rescue equipment for maritime accidents off the coast of the Cabo Delgado Province; (2) the Project for the Construction of Rural Water Supply Facility in Niassa Province; and (3) the Economic and Social Development Programme for providing heavy equipment to the Hulene waste disposal site.</u>
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noting the importance of businesses in achieving economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, both Ministers shared views to further promote business relations and people-to-people exchanges. The Ministers also agreed to hold the Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum as early as possible in order to strengthen the bilateral relations in various fields. Minister Motegi confirmed with South Africa, as the AU chair as well as the only African member state of the G20, to continue their cooperation and exchanged views on a wide range of issues, not only the bilateral relations but also the regional affairs, the entire African affairs and various global issues including the United Nations Security Council Reform.
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Motegi presented the progress on the cooperation related to the oil spill off the coast of Mauritius in August. (1) <u>a technical cooperation project on recovering the environment and restoring the livelihoods of the people engaging in fishery would be initiated, based on the result of the JICA survey mission, in January at the earliest;</u> (2) <u>a technical cooperation project for preventing maritime accidents would be implemented at the earliest possible time and also grant aid for monitoring maritime navigation is under consideration; and</u> (3) <u>for boosting the economic recovery of Mauritius, a Public-Private Sector Joint Mission would be sent in February 2021 to promote investments from Japan, and crisis response emergency support loan accounting for approximately 30 billion yen being considered based on the request of the Government of Mauritius.</u> Both Ministers signed <u>the Exchange of Notes of grant aid for improving disaster prevention capabilities of Mauritius</u> Minister Motegi also visited the site of the oil spill accident and the Minister expressed his appreciation to the JICA survey team when the team reported their activities to the Minister.