

Statement by H.E.Mr. Onishi Yohei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Japan

At the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Dakar International Forum on
Peace and Security in Africa

(Dakar, 20 April 2026)

<Provisional Translation>

His Excellency Mr. Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

On the occasion of the opening of the 10th Dakar International Forum, I am honored to deliver my greetings on behalf of the Government of Japan. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere respect to His Excellency President Faye and the Government of Senegal for their dedicated efforts in hosting this forum. Japan takes great pride in having continuously supported this important event since its first meeting held in 2014.

Africa is a continent of youth and vigour blessed with abundant cultures and resources. The international community is increasingly focusing on Africa for its dynamic growth potential and attractive opportunities for market expansion through its evolving regional integration.

At the same time, Africa is combating political instability, conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism and so on.

Further is the challenge of dealing with the effects of the instability of global affairs.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine and deterioration of the Middle Eastern conflict are now affecting social economics of African states through disruption of energy pricing and the stability of food supply.

The increase in social anxiety increases the risk of the region's stability and may make the realization of sustainable and inclusive economic development difficult.

It is widely recognized as an essential prerequisite that for Africa to unlock its full potential to continue economic growth and regional integration for further development, the countries of Africa establish peace and social stability.

The theme of this forum "Africa's stability, integration and sovereignty challenges: what sustainable solutions?" accurately captures the most important challenges Africa faces today.

To face complex and multi-dimensional challenges, it is critical that solutions be found through constructive discussions bringing together the diverse knowledge, by the different nations of Africa.

Japan expresses respect and solidarity for the African countries and regional initiatives to counter terrorism and aim for conflict resolutions.

Japan intends to walk together with countries of this great continent of Africa to actively pursue peace, stability and further strengthening of regional integration together.

In 1993, with the reshaping of the World Order post-Cold War and the interest in supporting Africa was declining, Japan established TICAD, Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

TICAD considers “peace and stability,” a consistent theme of the Dakar International Forum, as one of the essential pillars to the foundation for the development of Africa.

Japan has actively taken the initiative for peace and stability in Africa. Supporting Peace Keeping Operations and providing personnel development on a continuous basis is one example of our contributions. Japan has trained peacekeepers in the fields of engineering and Field Medic Assistant through the United Nations Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) and supported PKO training centers in various African countries.

At the last Dakar International Forum in 2023, Japan pledged in the amount of 500 million dollars for over three years to support peace, stability and promote sustainable development in the Sahel region and the neighboring coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea.

Over the past three years, Japan has implemented a wide variety of projects over 500 million dollars contributing to the peace and stability in the Sahel region and the neighboring coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea and promoting sustainable development, including support for PKO training centers, countermeasures against terrorism and violent extremism, strengthening communities that have been impacted from security instability. We intend to continue our support for the region’s peace and stability.

To aspire for international peace and stability, Japan promotes the vision of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” commonly known as FOIP, as one of the principles of the foreign policies.

FOIP is the vision that aspires to defend “freedom” and “rule of Law,” with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the international order respecting diversity and inclusivity, and securing regional and global peace, stability and prosperity.

This vision is a connecting theme of Japan’s diplomatic policy for Africa. It is noteworthy to mention that it was on the African continent that the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific was first announced ten years ago.

The vision of FOIP has become more important under the current international environment with heightened uncertainty.

Japan continues to promote various integration initiatives for the African region both within and outside of Africa and to make efforts to secure universal peace and stability. This includes maintaining and strengthening the rule-based maritime order and counter-terrorism and anti-piracy measures.

Distinguished participants,

The Dakar International Forum provides a valuable opportunity for African countries and the international community to join hands in fostering peace and prosperity. Japan will contribute to Africa’s peace, stability, and sustainable development through human centric initiatives. Together with Africa, as a responsible member of the international community, Japan will work closely to promote responsible global governance.

Thank you very much.