

CEAPAD V
Statement by Foreign Minister Moteqi
(July 22, 2026, Manila)

- It is truly meaningful that we are able to convene the 5th CEAPAD Ministerial Meeting today at this critical juncture for the entire Middle East region, including Palestine and Iran.
- I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Maria Theresa LAZARO, Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of the Philippines, for your dedicated effort in hosting this meeting.
- My deep appreciation also goes to Her Excellency Dr. Samah Hamad, Minister of Social Development of Palestine, for being with us today. I also sincerely welcome the active participation of all CEAPAD partners.
- Japan has consistently pursued initiatives to achieve peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution. One of them to which we have attached particular importance in recent years is expanding the network of assistance through CEAPAD. I visited both Palestine and Israel in January this year and underscored this point.
- CEAPAD draws on the resources and expertise of development of East Asian countries, through medium- to long-term human resource development, to contribute to Palestinian state-building efforts. Expectations for this approach are growing in the Middle East region as well as in the broader international community.
- At the 4th Ministerial Meeting last year, we adopted the "Kuala Lumpur Action Plan." Viability of Palestine is essential to realize a two-state solution. From this standpoint, this Action Plan identifies human resource development and capacity-building as

its primary modalities of cooperation. At this meeting, as a follow-up on the Action Plan, we have developed the "CEAPAD Project List" to showcase the achievements and recent efforts of CEAPAD partner countries. In this list, you can see some of the key strengths of assistance implemented by CEAPAD partners. I would like to highlight three strong points in particular.

- The first key strength lies in its contribution to maintaining essential healthcare and education systems in Palestine under any challenging circumstances, through a wide range of human resource development programs. Specifically speaking, we conduct training programs for healthcare personnel and provide study-abroad opportunities for Palestinian students who have lost access to education.
- The second lies in its efforts for private sector development to enhance the economic viability of Palestine. In particular, advancing human resource development in areas such as agriculture, trade, tourism, and investment promotion is essential for realizing a viable economy that is not dependent on aid. Under the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative, which will mark its 20th anniversary next year, Japan is committed to further advance the "Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP)," where I visited twice, a flagship initiative led by the private sector.
- The third is the expansion of opportunities for trilateral cooperation, with partner countries collaborating together to support Palestine. Through trilateral cooperation, multiple partner countries with different strengths can offer their respective resources and expertise for more effective assistance. Japan has been implementing trilateral cooperation with many CEAPAD partner countries as well. More recently, trilateral cooperation has expanded its reach to include countries beyond the CEAPAD membership. We welcome this development that demonstrates the continued expansion of the network of

assistance.

- I am convinced that CEAPAD will continue to address a wide range of challenges for state-building of Palestine and constantly evolve and expand in the years ahead. Today, I would like to invite all of you to share your proactive proposals and engage in lively discussions.