

Joint Statement between Japan and the Republic of the Maldives
- For a new stage of cooperation based on over forty years of friendship and trust -

1. President of the Republic of the Maldives Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom is currently visiting Japan from 14 to 17 April 2014 at the invitation of Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe. This is the first official visit by a President of the Maldives to Japan.
2. On 15 April 2014, Prime Minister Abe and President Yameen held a summit meeting . The two leaders, while recalling the history of friendship between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1967, recognized that the two countries are partners who share basic values including democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and discussed priority areas and measures for future cooperation which will strengthen the bilateral relations.
3. Prime Minister Abe expressed his deep gratitude for the heartfelt sympathy and support that the Government and the people of the Maldives extended, including the shipment of approximately 700 thousand tuna cans donated by the people of the Maldives after the Great East Japan Earthquake.
4. Prime Minister Abe explained to President Yameen on Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. President Yameen praised Japan's efforts to contribute to the peace and stability of the region and the world and expressed his support for the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace".
5. Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude to President Yameen for receiving of mission aircrafts of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force engaging in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations as well as the current anti-piracy operations for more than twenty years. The two leaders, noting that the training squadron of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force visited the port of Malé for the first time in July 2012, shared their intention to promote exchanges between the defense authorities of the two countries, especially in the area of maritime security.
6. President Yameen expressed his appreciation for the continued support provided by Japan through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) and for the activities of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), which have played an important role in the social and economic development of the Maldives. Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed the commitment of Japan to continue its Official Development Assistance

to the Maldives.

7. The two leaders, taking into account the alarming finding contained in the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stressed the need to cooperate closely to accelerate international efforts, especially in the negotiations at the UNFCCC process, in order to curb climate change and environmental degradation.
8. The two leaders welcomed bilateral cooperation in the areas of disaster risk reduction and reconstruction, and adaptation to climate change, such as the construction of the breakwater surrounding Malé island, which protected the island from the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004, and a clean energy project in Malé. The two leaders, recalling that Japan's cooperation had contributed effectively in addressing some of the challenges of climate change faced by the Maldives as one of the world's most vulnerable low-lying small island states, confirmed their willingness to continue and further reinforce bilateral cooperation in these areas.
9. The two leaders welcomed the launch of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) in June 2013 and expressed their expectation for the early realization of JCM projects driven by private sector under this mechanism.
10. Prime Minister Abe expressed that the Government of Japan is ready to offer technical cooperation for formulation of a Master Plan for sustainable fisheries development in the Maldives.
11. President Yameen expressed his expectation for an increase of Japanese investment in the Maldives through the "Maldives Investment Forum" that would be held during the President's visit to Japan. President Yameen also expressed his expectation for further engagement of Japan in the project of maintenance and expansion of the Malé International Airport. Prime Minister Abe stated that he would study the possible form of cooperation. In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the memorandum of understanding recently concluded between The Maldives Airports Company Limited and Japanese companies on the new international terminal building.
12. President Yameen announced that the Government of the Maldives decided to adopt the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T) as its national terrestrial digital television broadcasting system. Prime Minister Abe welcomed the political leadership of President Yameen and announced that Japan would dispatch a

survey mission for the purpose of identifying possible avenues to assist introduction of the ISDB-T system in the Maldives through grant aid.

13. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening people-to-people exchanges through academic exchanges such as cooperation for the Japanese language course at the Maldives National University, youth exchanges, parliamentary exchanges and tourism in order to diversify the friendly bilateral relationship.
14. The two leaders reiterated the importance of strengthening cooperation in the area of youth and sports. President Yameen expressed his appreciation for the provision of one hundred soccer balls by Japan Football Association (JFA) and for the invitation of two national football team coaches to the JFA's coaching program. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to reinforce bilateral sports exchanges through "Sport for Tomorrow" program.
15. The two leaders expressed their grave concern at the ballistic missile launches conducted by North Korea in March, which are clear violation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. They shared their views that North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, including its uranium enrichment activities are a threat to regional and international community. They strongly urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization and to fully comply with its obligations under all the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. They called on the international community to ensure full implementation of UN sanctions against North Korea. The two leaders strongly urged North Korea to address, without delay, humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.
16. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment as maritime countries to the freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce and peaceful settlement of disputes based on the principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea(UNCLOS) and reiterated the view that attempts to change the status quo by force in violation of international law and by coercive measures in the regions, including respective regions around both countries such as the Indian Ocean, should not be overlooked.

17. The two leaders underscored the importance of the freedom of overflight over the high seas and civil aviation safety in accordance with the principles of international law and the relevant standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
18. Prime Minister Abe thanked President Yameen for reaffirming the Maldives' support for Japan's aspiration to become a permanent member of United Nations Security Council. President Yameen highlighted the valuable role that Japan has been playing at the United Nations, and expressed the Maldives' continued support for Japan to serve as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. The President further assured the Prime Minister of the Maldives's support for Japan's bid to become a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council at the elections to be held during the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2014.
19. President Yameen extended his invitation to Prime Minister Abe to visit the Maldives. Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation for the invitation.

Tokyo

15 April 2014

Mr. Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom
President of the Republic of the Maldives