



JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE  
REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND JAPAN ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE STATE VISIT TO KENYA  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN H.E.  
MR. SHINZO ABE, FROM 26 TO 28 AUGUST,  
2016

1. H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid a state visit to Kenya from 26 to 28 August, 2016 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.
2. H.E. Prime Minister Abe congratulated H.E. President Kenyatta for the successful hosting of the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Summit. The Prime Minister underscored that hosting the first TICAD summit in Africa affirmed Kenya's steadfast commitment to the TICAD principles of African ownership and international partnership. President Kenyatta thanked Prime Minister Abe for the overwhelming support and goodwill extended to Kenya in hosting the Summit and stressed that the honour demonstrated Kenya's strong resolve to deepen its enduring cooperation with Japan and further solidify its position as the model of cooperation between Japan and Africa.
3. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the long-standing cordial and friendly bilateral relations existing between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen these relations based on universal values including democracy, the rule of law, good governance, and free, fair and open markets. The two leaders welcomed the exchange of high level visits between both countries and committed to further strengthen bilateral dialogue at all levels.
4. Prime Minister Abe hailed the Government of Kenya's long-term economic blueprint, the "Vision 2030" and reiterated his intention to support Kenya's economic transformation efforts. President Kenyatta expressed gratitude for the excellent economic cooperation existing between the two countries. The President particularly thanked the Government of Japan for its support in the development of geothermal power which has positioned Kenya as a global leader in green energy. Prime Minister Abe announced that Government of Japan will further strengthen its comprehensive support for Ol Karia geothermal power development projects through ODA loan and technical cooperation.
5. President Kenyatta further applauded the Government of Japan for continued support in improving capacity and efficiency of the Mombasa Port which is the gateway to Eastern and Central Africa. The two leaders

recognised the need of the joint sustainable development of the Mombasa (Dongo Kundu) Special Economic Zone. They confirmed their commitment to pursue and realize this imperative based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Governments signed on 28 August 2016 in Nairobi.

6. Prime Minister Abe appreciated the leadership role Kenya continues to play in championing African economic integration especially through the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Initiative. The two leaders noted that these initiatives are building blocks towards creation of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).
7. The two leaders emphasized the need to improve infrastructure connectivity within the East African region, and the African continent as a whole. They welcomed the progress in bilateral cooperation on the development of the Northern Corridor. President Kenyatta thanked the Government of Japan for its continued partnership in connecting Kenya with the rest of Africa, and invited investments from Japan in the development of the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia (LAPSSET) development corridor. The two leaders also confirmed that both governments will enhance cooperation in urban development.
8. The two leaders stressed the importance of investing in quality infrastructure to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth. President Kenyatta welcomed Japan's key role in infrastructure development in Kenya in the areas of transport, energy, water irrigation and ICT.
9. President Kenyatta recalled the roundtable discussion with over ninety Japanese business executives who called on him in August, 2015 to exchange views on prospects of furthering their engagements in Kenya. President Kenyatta expressed appreciation of the presence of top level Japanese CEOs accompanying Prime Minister Abe during his visit. President Kenyatta also expressed confidence that their visit would translate into increased Japanese investments in Kenya and the region.
10. The two leaders committed to increasing their utmost efforts to promote

trade and investment between Japan and Kenya and in this context, welcomed the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the Promotion and Protection of Investment and looked forward to the commencement of formal negotiations towards concluding an agreement on avoidance of double taxation to further enhance investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.

11. The two leaders acknowledged that direct air connectivity between Kenya and Japan can play a key role in the promotion of trade, investment and tourism. They recognised the need of a framework in the future to allow for operation of direct flights between the two countries. President Kenyatta appealed to Japan to take cognisance of the improved security environment in Kenya and requested Japan to revise its travel advisory in order to promote Japanese tourism and business travel to Kenya.
12. The two leaders emphasized the importance of developing infrastructure for water storage and irrigation to build resilient agricultural production systems for improved livelihoods in order to adapt to the impact of climate change and to realize food security, better nutrition and sustainable agriculture. They stressed the need to continue supporting progressive increase of irrigated agricultural production through technical cooperation. The two leaders further underscored the importance of encouraging public private partnership, in areas of crop, livestock, fisheries and blue economy value chains.
13. Prime Minister Abe welcomed the Government of Kenya's efforts towards the full realization of universal health coverage (UHC) by making full use of the UHC policy loan and assistance for human resource development, which makes Kenya the leading model in this area in Africa. President Kenyatta welcomed Japan's cooperation to assist Kenya build resilient health systems and strengthen its preparedness for and response to future disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies and disasters.
14. The two leaders recalled the fruitful discussions between Kenya and Japan on the need to support maritime resources development. President Kenyatta underscored the importance Kenya attaches to the development of the blue economy. The two leaders noted that sustainable development of

living marine resources should be based on a scientific and healthy ecosystem approach. They also emphasized that research in the marine environment should guide exploitation of both the living and non-living marine resources. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's willingness to support Kenya's efforts to develop its blue economy.

15. The two leaders recognized that people-to-people exchange, human resource development and job creation for young people is of utmost importance. President Kenyatta expressed his gratitude for Japan's long standing support in the training of young Kenyan professionals in industrial work skills, business education and vocational and technical training and noted that the programmes have had a positive impact on Kenya's industrialization agenda. The two leaders recognised the importance of building capacity in legal affairs, including in the emerging areas related to economy, development and environment. The two leaders affirmed to further promote vocational training as well as exchange programmes such as Sport for Tomorrow. The two leaders further acknowledged the need to foster cultural exchange between the two countries. In this regard, the two leaders lauded the success of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative).
16. Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan will extend grant aid for economic and social development amounting to one billion Yen. President Kenyatta welcomed the assistance and thanked the Prime Minister and the people of Japan for their continued support to Kenya's development.
17. The two leaders recognized the importance of the empowerment of women and the need to strengthen cooperation in this area, including efforts through conferences such as the World Assembly for Women (WAW!).
18. On global issues, the two leaders condemned in the strongest terms recent attacks, atrocities and human rights abuses perpetrated by terrorist organizations. They renewed their commitment to fight against terrorism and address root causes of violent extremism and radicalization. President Kenyatta appreciated the continued support from the Government of Japan for countering violent extremism through UNDP and expressed hope for strengthening cooperation in the relevant area particularly as Kenya develops and implements a national disengagement and rehabilitation

programme for returning foreign terrorist fighters and convicts. President Kenyatta further appreciated Japan's commitment to help strengthen Africa's counter-terrorism capacity by extending assistance of one-hundred and twenty million US dollars including human resource development of thirty thousand people in three years, announced at the open debate of the UN Security Council on peace-building in Africa on 28 July 2016.

19. The two leaders shared the recognition that the reform of the Security Council, including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories, should be expeditiously advanced to make it more representative, effective, and legitimate and to further strengthen the credibility of the United Nations. In this regard, they expressed their determination to enhance their cooperation. They also emphasized the importance of moving the process forward, including through increased interactions and consultations. The two leaders acknowledged the value of continued dialogue among the interested groups to bridge divergent positions and to comprehensively address all the elements of the Security Council reforms.
20. The two leaders exchanged views on the wider security environment in the world, especially in Horn of Africa and East Asia. They underscored that observance of international law is a cornerstone for maintaining peace and stability of the world. Prime Minister Abe briefed President Kenyatta on Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, including the "Legislation for Peace and Security", which aims to enhance Japan's contribution to global peace, stability and prosperity. The President welcomed Japan's new security policy in support of peace and expressed his appreciation for Japan's efforts. The President further expressed the hope that through this policy Japan will engage more actively towards resolving conflicts in Africa. President Kenyatta thanked Japan for its role in anti-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia. The two leaders reaffirmed their intention to deepen cooperation in the field of peace building, especially through Japan's support for the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Kenya and through United Nations Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC).
21. Prime Minister Abe explained Japan's position on the issues related to the

situation in the East and South China Sea. President Kenyatta stated that Kenya respects Japan's position on maritime security. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a maritime order based upon principles of international law, including those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The two leaders recognized the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight as well as dispute resolution by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law including UNCLOS.

22. The two leaders further recognized the importance of addressing challenges to maritime safety, including piracy, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and other illegal activities. They decided to work together to promote sustainable use of fishery resources, including cetaceans and to cooperate closely in the International Whaling Commission and other fora. President Kenyatta informed Prime Minister Abe that Kenya is at an advanced stage of establishing a coast guard service, and that Kenya welcomes the Government of Japan to support these efforts through the provision of equipment and training.
23. The two leaders noted with concern the serious danger posed by poaching and illicit trade of wildlife and wildlife products on African biodiversity, in particular ivory and rhino horn. In this regard, the two leaders resolved to seek ways to enhance conservation and management of Africa's endangered species, including by combating illicit trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
24. The two leaders noted that the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) scheduled to be held in Ecuador from 17-20 October, 2016 provides a unique opportunity of realizing a New Urban Agenda, to complement efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, the two leaders recognised important role of UN-Habitat in coordinating implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
25. Prime Minister Abe briefed President Kenyatta on the escalation of tensions in the region, in particular the Korean Peninsula and Japan's efforts to resolve outstanding concerns including nuclear, missile and abductions issues. President Kenyatta expressed his support for the Prime Minister's

efforts to pursue peaceful solution to those issues. The two leaders underlined the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the region, including by fully implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions in particular Resolution 2270. The two leaders urged North Korea to refrain from acts that may threaten the security of its neighbours and to fully comply with UN Security Council resolutions and other international commitments.

26. The two leaders acknowledged the need to enhance their cooperation to address global challenges such as implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, climate change and refugee crisis. They reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and successful outcomes in the 2020 Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference.
27. Finally, Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation to President Kenyatta and the Government of Kenya for the warm hospitality accorded to him. President Kenyatta congratulated Prime Minister Abe and Japan on winning the bid and wished them success in hosting the 2020 games Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Nairobi, 28 August, 2016