

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan  
at the Japan-Africa Security Council Members' Summit Meeting  
18 September 2017**

I would like to thank the heads of state of the current African members of the Security Council, Ethiopia and Senegal; next year's Security Council members, Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea; and Guinea, the chair of the African Union, for gathering here today.

Through TICAD as well as bilateral visits, we have held discussions on peace and stability of the international community, including Asia and Africa. I am delighted to have the opportunity today to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing both regions.

In Africa, Japan contributes to peace and stability of the continent through the deployment of the engineering unit of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to South Sudan for more than five years as well as its support for peacekeeping training centers and vocational training. At TICAD VI in August 2016, we consolidated in the Nairobi Declaration and its implementation plan a number of necessary measures on social stabilization and institution-building, both of which form a foundation for peace.

Japan's contribution to social stability in Africa since 2016 amounts to approximately 23.3 billion Japanese yen and vocational training for more than 16,000 people.

Japan highly commends AU's activities in fields such as mediation, peace support operations and institutional-building, which symbolize African ownership. We continue to support these efforts by AU.

Turning to Asia, North Korea continues its provocative actions by conducting nuclear tests and launching ballistic missiles, which poses an unprecedented, grave and imminent threat to international peace and security.

The time has come for the entire international community to apply unprecedented and new level of pressure in order to change North Korea's policy. The recent adoption of the Security Council resolution 2375 imposes additional sanctions including prohibitions on the issuance of work permits for the North Korean nationals abroad. We are grateful to the support from the African members of the Security Council for this.

I understand that many African countries have historical ties with North Korea since their independence. However, I request each country to cease military cooperation with North Korea and consider tightening regulations on trade and people to people exchanges.

We ask for AU Chairperson Alpha Conde's continued leadership in ensuring that the relevant Security Council resolutions are fully implemented by AU member states, and that there are no loopholes in the sanctions regime.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate the urgency of Security Council reform to enable Japan and Africa to contribute more proactively to international peace and security. Japan does not merely

seek its own permanent membership on the Council but also fully support Africa's aspiration of rectifying "historical injustice" and having African States in the Council as permanent members by 2023.

I look forward to a frank discussion today on Africa's peace and stability, the situation in North Korea, Security Council reform, and any other important issues.