

Visit of the President of the Republic of Ecuador,  
Mr. Lenín Moreno Garcés, to Japan  
Joint Statement

The President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr. Lenín Moreno Garcés, made an official visit to Japan between September 3 and 8 2018 at the invitation of the Government of Japan, and held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe. The two leaders held a fruitful exchange of views on areas of mutual interest.

**I. Bilateral Relations**

*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations Between Japan and Ecuador*

1 Prime Minister Abe welcomed President Moreno Garcés' visit to Japan as the President of the Republic of Ecuador, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic relations in 2018. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction on the successful commemorative events held this year, including the Opening Ceremonies held in Quito and in Tokyo in January this year. The two leaders welcomed the high level visits by their respective authorities in recent years, including the first visit to Ecuador by Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, on August 13 2018. President Moreno Garcés thanked the invitation extended by the House of Representatives of Japan to the Ecuador-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Group to visit Japan, and the two leaders showed their expectation for more active parliamentary exchanges. The two leaders reaffirmed their intention to further develop the bilateral relations, looking towards the next 100 years, by strengthening the current consultation mechanisms as well as by promoting high level exchanges.

*Economic Relations*

2 Prime Minister Abe expressed his support for President Moreno Garcés' efforts for political and economic reform, especially the effort to promote foreign direct investment. The two leaders expressed their intention to further strengthen the bilateral economic relations, and welcomed the agreement in principle of the tax convention between Japan and the Republic of Ecuador for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance. President Moreno Garcés explained Ecuador's efforts to improve the business environment and reiterated Ecuador's interest in signing a bilateral investment treaty with Japan.

3 With a view to further enhancing economic exchanges between the two countries, especially of agricultural goods, the two leaders welcomed the dispatching of a Japanese technical mission on agriculture to Ecuador with the objective of advising Ecuadorian authorities and cacao bean producers with the aim that this product may enter the Japanese market, complying with the

standards observed in Japan. The two leaders will also seek to strengthen cooperation on trade and foreign investment.

Both leaders also welcomed the fully reopening of trade insurance coverage for Ecuador by the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, facilitating export and investment by Japanese companies to and in Ecuador.

4 The two leaders welcomed the steady progress of cooperation in the Digital Terrestrial Television Sector and in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the signing of “the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Ministry of Communications and Information Society of the Republic of Ecuador on the Cooperation in the Digital Terrestrial Television Sector and in the Field of Information and Communications Technologies”. The two leaders expressed their expectation towards the further advancement of bilateral cooperation in this area, including in possible ICT infrastructure projects such as the optical submarine cable system Manta-Galapagos Islands.

#### *Economic and Social Development Cooperation*

5 The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of promoting quality infrastructure to enhance regional connectivity in accordance with international standards, including open access, transparency, economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost and sustainable financing. President Moreno Garcés expressed the interest of Ecuador in increasing cooperation with Japan in this area.

6 Prime Minister Abe and President Moreno Garcés welcomed the realization of Japan’s loan to the Republic of Ecuador up to the amount of 70 million dollars for the purpose of implementing the “Project for Supporting the Advancement of Energy Matrix Transition”, which will be the first Japanese loan to Ecuador in 20 years. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes of the project. The two leaders also welcomed the progress of the feasibility study for the geothermal power generation project in Chachimbiro, which promotes the use of renewable energy and the diversification of the energy matrix in Ecuador.

7 The two leaders confirmed the importance of their efforts to tackle natural disasters as common issues for the two countries. In this regard, President Moreno Garcés appreciated Japan’s cooperation in the area of disaster prevention, highlighting Japan’s humanitarian assistance following the earthquake in Ecuador in April 2016 as well as the technical cooperation project named “Project for Safe and Resilient Cities for Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster”, and also expressed his appreciation for Japan’s grant aid of 4.7 million dollars in total concerning “Economic and Social Development Programme” in this sector as agreed in the Exchange of Notes in September 2016 and August 2018. Furthermore, President Moreno Garcés expressed his interest in introducing the Emergency Warning Broadcasting System (EWBS), which has a feature of ISDB-T technology that Ecuador adopted as their national Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting standard, which would be

effective for disaster risk reduction measures.

8 President Moreno Garcés expressed appreciation for Japan’s humanitarian assistance in the northern border area of Ecuador and cooperation for security improvement.

#### *Cooperation in Other Areas*

9 The two leaders expressed their intention to strengthen cooperation in scientific, technological and academic exchanges. The two leaders welcomed cultural exchanges between the two countries such as dispatch of Japan Cultural Envoy in Ecuador as well as cooperation on preservation of cultural heritage by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan.

10 The two leaders expressed their intention to promote people-to-people exchanges especially among youths, including through tourism. In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the activities of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers in Ecuador, as well as exchanges through programs such as the Japanese Government Scholarship and through efforts by the civil society including exchanges between the youths of the Ogasawara Islands and the Galapagos Islands. The two leaders shared the intention to introduce visa waiver on a reciprocal basis for the diplomatic passport holders. President Moreno Garcés expressed his appreciation for Japanese government’s decision of the relaxation of visa requirements for nationals of Ecuador.

11 Taking into account the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, the two leaders shared the intention to promote cooperation in the field of sports. In this regard, President Moreno Garcés highly appreciated the cooperation by the Government of Japan through its “Sport for Tomorrow” program and both leaders expressed their satisfaction on the interest demonstrated by the relevant agencies in both countries.

## **II. Cooperation in International Fora**

### *Free and Open Maritime Order based on the Rule of Law*

12 Bearing in mind that Japan and Ecuador are neighbors across the Pacific Ocean, the two leaders confirmed that a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is a cornerstone for peace and prosperity in the international community. In this regard, the two leaders underlined the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded trade, self-restraint, demilitarization, as well as peaceful settlement of maritime disputes including through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes.

### *Civil Aviation*

13 President Moreno Garcés reiterated that his government assigns importance to the proposal presented by Ecuador, in the framework of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to be assigned in the NO-FIR region in the Pacific Ocean, which will be named FIR GALAPAGOS, and will contribute in facilitating international aerial navigation, interregional aerial connectivity, and to the promotion of tourism, trade and investments between the two regions through the exploitation of the Manta-Tahiti airway.

#### *The situation in the Korean Peninsula*

14 The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the realization of the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and all ballistic missiles in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). They both welcomed discussions between the United States and North Korea, and called on North Korea to take concrete steps towards this goal. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the relevant UNSCRs, in line with the obligations taken under the Charter of the United Nations. The two leaders emphasized the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

#### *Cooperation within the United Nations (UN)*

15 Prime Minister Abe expressed his congratulations on the election of Ambassador María Fernanda Espinosa, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, as the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. The two leaders also expressed their intention to cooperate closely in the UN in a wide range of areas, including the reform of the UN and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

#### *Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation*

16 The two leaders exchanged their view for the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons, and expressed their intention to strengthen cooperation in areas such as nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy towards the successful outcome of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in the year 2020. They recalled obligations under the NPT, including its article VI, and commitments made by all States Parties, especially Nuclear Weapon States, and in this regard they emphasized the importance of taking further practical steps and effective measures, respecting divergent views and different approaches towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

#### *Global Issues including Climate Change*

17 The two leaders reaffirmed the necessity of tackling global issues including climate change. The two leaders expressed their firm commitment to conclude the negotiations of the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement and adopt them at COP24 for the operationalization of the Paris

Agreement.

*The Global Compact on Migration*

18 The two leaders look forward to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference that will take place in Marrakech (Morocco) on December 10 and 11 2018 to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. They reiterated their shared belief that refugees and migrants enjoy the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times and that migration has been part of the human experience throughout history, recognizing that it is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world, and that these positive impacts can be optimized by improving migration governance.

President Moreno Garcés expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and the Ecuadorian delegation from Prime Minister Abe and the people of Japan.

Tokyo, September 5, 2018