

The Fifth Dakar International Forum

on Peace and Security in Africa

Speech by Mr. Masahisa SATO, State Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Your Excellency, Mr. Sidiki KABA, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of the Republic of Senegal,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am honored to attend the 5th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa as the representative of Japan. I would like to pay tribute to His Excellency, Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and to all those who have deployed their efforts to organize the meeting. I am glad that Japan has been able to continue contributing to this forum since the first meeting. It is also my pleasure to participate in the meeting two years in a row.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Issues on sustainable stability and development”, the theme of this year, is the common issue not only in Africa but for all the countries which aim to achieve sustainable development. With this understanding, Japan put priority on promotion of peace and stability as one of the main pillars of TICAD process, and has been working actively on stability of the African continent.

In order to respond to terrorism, violent extremism and cybercrime, institution-building and structure reinforcement are significant challenges. In this regard, Japan contributes to strengthen the security maintaining system in the region by introducing Japanese companies' high scientific technology. Providing face recognition system for reinforcement of border control in Rwanda or finger print authentication system for the Police of Cote d'Ivoire are good examples.

In addition to our assistance totaling about 100 million US dollars to 15 peacekeeping training centers in Africa since 2008, Japan contributes to human resource development for peacebuilding. Since 2015, we have contributed to enhancing the capabilities of enablers of peacekeeping missions by support the project “United Nations Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities • Africa” (RDEC Africa). Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel with high skills have been dispatched as

instructors and have trained engineering personnel. In terms of stability in the Sahel region, Japan is implementing 29 million US dollar assistance for border control capacity building and anti-corruption measures this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have experience of being dispatched in Golan Heights as Commander of Transportation Unit in the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and to Samawa in Southern Iraq as Commander of Iraq Reconstruction Mission Support Team. Through those experiences, as well as visits in several African countries such as Chad, Central Africa or Democratic Republic of Congo as State Minister of Foreign Affairs since last year, I felt the importance of building a society which prevents citizens from resorting to violence due to difficult living conditions, in order to eradicate the terrorism and violent extremism.

From this point of view, Japan has been providing long-standing support in the fields of health and hygiene, education, technical and vocational training in addition to reinforcement of institution as I mentioned earlier. In the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held last month, we discussed progress and challenges in creating resilient society together with the representatives of African countries, and confirmed to build peace and stability in the region under African leadership.

Last August, we also organized the Core Group Meeting of Eminent Persons Group of Africa with aims to find and share, within African countries and the international community, Africa's own solutions towards realization of peace and stability as well as measures of its implementation. With the participation of 5 former presidents of African countries, we had direct and outspoken discussion about cases that hinder peace and stability in Africa and approaches to be taken.

Towards the TICAD7 in August next year, Japan will continue to collaborate with African countries and partners for peace, stability and sustainable development in Africa as a whole.

I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing that the discussion in the meeting will lead to an ever more enhanced cooperation for peace and security in Africa.

Thank you for your attention.