

**Joint Statement by Japan and the Republic of Ghana
on the Occasion of the Visit to Japan by
H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana**

H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, held a meeting and discussed a wide range of issues, on the occasion of President Akufo-Addo's visit to Japan from December 10 to 13, 2018.

I. Introduction

1. Prime Minister Abe welcomed President Akufo-Addo and his delegation's visit to Japan.
2. The two leaders welcomed the steady progress on their friendly and cooperative relationship on the basis of universal values such as the respect for freedom, democracy, rule of law, and good governance and reaffirmed the commitment that the two countries will further strengthen the cooperation in bilateral and global fora.
3. President Akufo-Addo highly valued Japan's initiative for the development of Africa through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, which is an open, inclusive, and transparent partnership forum and expressed appreciation for Japan's significant contribution to date. The two leaders underscored the importance of the steady implementation of the measures announced at TICAD and reaffirmed cooperation for the success of TICAD 7. President Akufo-Addo promised to participate in TICAD 7 in 2019.

II. New Phase of Long-standing Friendly and Cooperative Relationship

4. On this occasion of President Akufo-Addo's visit to Japan, the two leaders affirmed that the long-standing friendly and cooperative relationship between Japan and Ghana will enter a new phase, building on the rich history symbolized by Dr. Hideyo Noguchi's deep connections with Ghana and engaging in strategic political dialogues.

Development Cooperation

5. Prime Minister Abe commended President Akufo-Addo for his Ghana Beyond Aid vision and reaffirmed Japan's continued support to Ghana's efforts at its socio-economic development in the areas of quality infrastructure development, strengthening of the foundation for industrial development including agriculture as

well as for health and human resource development.

6. The two leaders shared the view that Ghana holds a strategically important position in the West Africa Growth Ring Corridor Development to enhance connectivity and promote economic activities in the sub-region, and they reaffirmed the importance of developing quality infrastructure in accordance with international standards such as openness, transparency, economic efficiency in view of life cycle cost, social and environmental considerations and financial soundness including debt sustainability of recipient countries. President Akufo-Addo expressed his appreciation toward Japan's cooperation in Ghana's infrastructure development such as the reinforcement of power supply to Accra Central and the improvement of the Tema motorway roundabout. President Akufo-Addo also expressed his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Abe for the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Project for Rehabilitation of National Trunk Road N8 (Phase2).
7. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of promoting resilient health systems toward the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), as a prerequisite for Ghana's human security and growth, and expressed their intention to discuss the issue as one of the focus areas at TICAD7. President Akufo-Addo expressed his appreciation toward Japan's cooperation in the health sector such as the strengthening of community-based health services and the introduction of the mother child health record book. President Akufo-Addo also expressed his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Abe for the recent signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Project for Addressing Malnutrition in Ashanti and Northern Regions. Both leaders praised the important contributions made by the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), which will commemorate the 40th anniversary of its establishment next year.
8. The two leaders reaffirmed that education and human resource development are the foundations of nation building and economic development. President Akufo-Addo further expressed his gratitude for Japan's support to human resource development and skills transfer in Ghana such as the National KAIZEN Project, the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), and the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS).

Economic Relations

9. The two leaders expressed their common desire to enhance economic relations between the two countries. President Akufo-Addo expressed his commitment to

welcome Japanese companies to Ghana and create a stable and sustainable climate for business and investment for them. In this respect, both leaders expressed their satisfaction for holding the Japan-Ghana Investment Forum in Tokyo being organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana in Japan during this visit.

Cultural, Sports, Academic and People-to-people Exchanges

10. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to cooperate for the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. They welcomed the decision made by the Town of Inawashiro, Fukushima Prefecture, to be a host-town for Ghana on the occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Games.
11. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to further increase cultural, sports, academic and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. In this context, both leaders welcomed the growing Japanese language education in Ghana, as well as successful annual Japan Week programmes.
12. The two leaders affirmed the importance of youth exchanges between the two countries. In this respect, both leaders appreciated the intercultural youth interactions including the one featuring *Yosakoi*, a Japanese traditional dance and the recent high-school level exchange.

III. Cooperation for the Better World

Peace and Stability

13. The two leaders expressed their commitment to ensure the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. President Akufo-Addo expressed his support for Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. In particular, the two leaders shared the intent to continue their cooperation in the field of peacekeeping through the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and the United Nation's Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities (RDEC)·Africa.

Free and Open Maritime Order Based on the Rule of Law

14. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a rules-based free and open maritime order in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The two leaders underlined the importance of freedom of

navigation and overflight, unimpeded trade, demilitarization of disputed features and self-restraint as well as peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law including through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes. The two leaders expressed opposition to any unilateral actions that could change the status quo. In this respect, Prime Minister Abe appreciated the commitment by Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to comply with the judgement by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) over their maritime boundary dispute.

15. The two leaders expressed their concern regarding the recent increase of incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, which holds vital importance to Ghana, and reaffirmed the importance of promoting cooperation on maritime security including responses toward piracy, illegal fishing and other illegal activities. President Akufo-Addo expressed his appreciation to Japan as the top donor to the Fund established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with the aim of supporting anti-piracy measures by countries in the Gulf of Guinea.

North Korea

16. The two leaders reconfirmed their commitment to the goal of the international community for North Korea's complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and called on North Korea to take concrete actions toward the aforementioned goal. The two leaders further expressed their support for diplomatic efforts by the United States in that regard and reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the relevant UNSCRs, in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

17. Mindful of relevant international documents on the question of abductions, the two leaders emphasized the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

18. The two leaders emphasized the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a cornerstone of international nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. The two leaders confirmed that they will work together to strengthen the NPT regime by practical and concrete measures based on cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States and cooperate for a successful outcome of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. The two

leaders further confirmed that they will also collaborate on other non-proliferation and disarmament issues, such as promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

United Nations Security Council Reform

19. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, in order to make it more legitimate, effective and representative, reflecting the realities of the international community in the 21st century. They underscored the necessity of launching text-based negotiations immediately, and also expressed their determination to continue engaging constructively in the work of the intergovernmental negotiations toward an early realization of the reform. In this context, Prime Minister Abe expressed his support for the adequate reflection of the African Common Position set out in the Ezulwini Consensus in a negotiation text. Furthermore, the two leaders affirmed the importance of continuing the dialogue between Japan and Africa.

Global Issues

20. The two leaders recognized the need to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation to address global issues in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Prime Minister Abe congratulated President Akufo-Addo on his reappointment as Co-Chair of the Eminent Group of SDGs Advocates and commended his contribution to the realization of the SDGs.

Empowerment of Women

21. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of women's equal and full participation in all fields, including in the economic, social and political realms, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in these areas by making use of such occasions as the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) and TICAD.

World Expo 2025

22. President Akufo-Addo extended his congratulations on Japan's election as host country of World Expo 2025. Prime Minister Abe expressed his deep appreciation for Ghana's support.

23. President Akufo-Addo expressed his deep appreciation to Prime Minister Abe and

the Government of Japan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to his delegation during this visit.

Tokyo, December 11, 2018