

**JOINT STATEMENT OF JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL WORKING VISIT TO JAPAN BY
H.E. MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZAMBIA**

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, accompanied by Ministers, undertook an Official Working Visit to Japan from 17th to 20th December 2018. On this occasion, the two leaders held a meeting to further strengthen the bilateral relations and cooperation between Japan and Zambia.

I. Introduction

1. Prime Minister Abe warmly welcomed President Lungu on the first Official Working Visit to Japan by a Zambian Head of State in 6 years since the last visit in October 2012 by former late President, H.E. Mr. Michael Sata.
2. The two leaders held fruitful discussions and reaffirmed the excellent relations existing between Japan and Zambia that are premised on shared values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law, and good governance. The two leaders confirmed that the relations between Japan and Zambia would enter a new phase which will be characterised by enhanced cooperation in both bilateral relations, including trade and investment, and the international fora.
3. President Lungu commended Japan for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) which is an open, inclusive and transparent forum, and is contributing positively to Africa's development agenda, including that of Zambia. The two leaders underscored the importance of the strategic partnership and implementation of related commitments and decided to collaborate for the success of TICAD 7 which will be held in 2019 in Yokohama, Japan. President Lungu looked forward to participating in TICAD 7 in 2019.

II. New Phase of Bilateral Relations

Development Cooperation

4. During the meeting, President Lungu expressed appreciation for Japan's development assistance over the years to Zambia through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in various fields.

5. President Lungu affirmed Zambia's commitment to continuing implementation of economic and development policies aimed at achieving Zambia's vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by 2030. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's commitment to continuing its support to Zambia in the areas including economic diversification through the improvement of agricultural and manufacturing productivity by quality infrastructure development. Other areas include advancement of quality education, human resource development, and improvement of water and health services in line with Zambia's Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). The two leaders underscored the importance of building infrastructure in accordance with international standards such as transparency and financial soundness of recipient countries as well as openness and economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost. In this regard, President Lungu expressed gratitude for Japan's technical support towards successful completion of the Bridge Maintenance Capacity Building Project Phase 1.
6. Furthermore, President Lungu expressed appreciation for Japan's assistance in the construction of facilities at the University of Zambia School of the Veterinary Medicine. He also expressed gratitude for the support to the health and medical sectors including the collaboration between Hokkaido University and the University of Zambia in the establishment of a laboratory in the School of Veterinary Medicine and surveillance of viral zoonosis in Africa. In this regard, the two leaders witnessed the signing of the exchange of notes for a grant aid worth 500 million yen for the upgrading of old equipment at the University of Zambia School of Veterinary Medicine.
7. In addition, President Lungu thanked Japan for its contribution to the improvement of access to health care services including maternal and child health and the grant aid for the "Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health Centres to District Hospitals". President Lungu applauded the generous contribution of Japanese Volunteers to the lives of Zambians across the country.
8. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's intention to continue supporting Zambia in the health sector including improved access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and advancement of health care services for infectious diseases and maternal and child health. President Lungu reaffirmed the need to enhance efforts to galvanise further support from the international community and private sector in the field of health. The two leaders shared the view that they would strive to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Zambia. They also expressed their intention to discuss the

issue as one of the areas of focus at TICAD 7.

9. President Lungu welcomed Japan's support under the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative, which has contributed to industrial human resource development of 32 Zambians. The two leaders underscored the importance of education and human resource development as the foundation of nation-building and development.
10. President Lungu further expressed gratitude for Japan's support to human resource development and skills transfer in Zambia through the National Kaizen Project Phase 2 which was positively contributing to improved productivity in both public and private sectors.

Economy, Trade and Investment

11. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to reinforcing efforts aimed at promoting mutually beneficial trade, encouraging Japanese companies to expand their business in Zambia, and ensuring favourable business environments in both countries. In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the substantial progress in the negotiations on the bilateral investment agreement and confirmed the need to expedite the negotiations to reach an agreement at the earliest possible time.
12. President Lungu commended Japan's efforts to promote public and private investment in Zambia such as organizing "the Japan-Zambia Public-Private Conference for High-Quality Infrastructure" in January 2017 and sending "the Japanese Public Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa" to Zambia in July 2018. Furthermore, the two leaders expressed confidence in the positive outcomes of the Japan-Zambia Business Forum co-hosted by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Japan, to take place on the occasion of the Official Working Visit.
13. Prime Minister Abe appreciated Zambia's participation in the inaugural Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum that was held in May 2018, and also welcomed the signing, on the margins of that Forum, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development of the Republic of Zambia that provides for the development of minerals, technology transfer and joint research, especially in copper and cobalt mining.
14. Prime Minister Abe commended President Lungu for the efforts made by Zambia

towards fiscal consolidation and announced Japan's intention to provide technical support to Zambia in the area of public financial management to help improve Zambia's debt sustainability. President Lungu affirmed Zambia's commitment to ensuring debt sustainability and to maintaining sound fiscal policy. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe referred to a preliminary assessment that was conducted by JICA to discuss the needs of Zambia in achieving fiscal consolidation.

Gender

15. Prime Minister Abe commended President Lungu for being a strong advocate for women and girls' rights. This is evidenced by the establishment of a Ministry of Gender in Zambia, appointment of women in top leadership positions, and his leadership role in the fight against child, early and forced marriages. In addition, the two leaders congratulated each other on their respective roles in promoting the "He For She" Campaign, a UN Women's initiative for gender equality. In this regard, the two leaders acknowledged the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. President Lungu commended Prime Minister Abe for his leadership role in organizing the World Assembly for Women (WAW!), and the two leaders confirmed their intention to strengthen cooperation in these areas.

III. Partnership for Global Peace and Prosperity

Regional Issues

16. Prime Minister Abe appreciated Zambia's efforts towards peace-building in the region and the rest of Africa and congratulated President Lungu on his election as Chairperson for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ for Politics, Defence, and Security and also on the appointment to the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Security Council. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectation that Zambia and other SADC Member States would support the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to ensure fair and peaceful Presidential elections, which would be held shortly.

17. In addition, Prime Minister Abe appreciated Zambia's acceptance of refugees from neighboring and other countries. In this regard, President Lungu expressed appreciation for Japan's support towards refugees and the local integration of former refugees.

Cooperation in the United Nations

18. The two leaders underscored the importance of a comprehensive reform of the 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. The two leaders expressed their determination to continue engaging constructively in the work of the intergovernmental negotiations towards an early realisation of the reform. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe expressed his support for the adequate reflection of the Common African Position (CAP) in the negotiation text and supported the continued dialogue between Japan and Africa.

Security Policy

19. The two leaders underscored that the observance of international law is a cornerstone for maintaining peace and stability in the world. Prime Minister Abe briefed President Lungu 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. President Lungu welcomed Japan's security policy and expressed hope that Japan would continue its engagement in the promotion of peace and stability of Africa and contribution to the development of the security environment in Africa.

Situation in the Korean Peninsula

20. The two leaders reaffirmed 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 UNSC Resolutions (UNSCRs). The two leaders called on North Korea to take concrete actions towards the aforementioned goal. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the relevant UNSCRs, in accordance with the obligations taken under the Charter of the United Nations. The two leaders emphasised the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

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

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

Free and open maritime order based on the rule of law

22. 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, 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.

2025 World Expo

23. The two leaders reaffirmed their intention to maintain close cooperation between the two countries in various multilateral fora including supporting each other's candidatures. Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation for Zambia's support which contributed to the election of Osaka, Kansai as the venue for the World Expo 2025.

Global issues

24. The two leaders decided to enhance cooperation to address global issues in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Conclusion

25. At the conclusion of the Official Working Visit, President Lungu expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Abe for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the Visit and extended an invitation for him to visit Zambia. Prime Minister Abe thanked President Lungu for accepting his invitation to visit Japan and for extending an invitation to him to visit Zambia.

Tokyo, 19th December 2018