

Joint Statement between Japan and the Republic of Rwanda on the occasion of the official working visit of His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

H. E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, made an official working visit to Japan upon the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. On this occasion, the two leaders held a Summit Meeting to deepen cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Rwanda. This statement reflects their discussion on bilateral cooperation.

I. Introduction

1. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation based on shared fundamental values.
2. President Kagame expressed appreciation for Japan's contributions to Africa's development, and recalled that the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is a partner forum widely acknowledged for its openness, inclusiveness and transparency. Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation for the leadership of the Government of Rwanda, as the Chair of the African Union (AU), at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October 2018. The two leaders stressed the importance of steady fulfillment of commitments under TICAD and expressed their determination to cooperate towards the success of TICAD 7 in 2019. President Kagame promised to participate in TICAD 7 in 2019.
3. Prime Minister Abe expressed his respect for Rwanda's remarkable progress in national unity and reconciliation, and socio-economic development, under the leadership of President Kagame.

II. Bilateral Cooperation Development Cooperation

4. President Kagame thanked Japan for its long-standing contributions to Rwanda's development. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's intention to continue to support sustainable economic growth in Rwanda, including in the fields of quality infrastructure, agricultural development, social service improvement, and human capital development. The two

leaders also confirmed the importance of cooperating in improving infrastructure in accordance with international standards.

5. During the visit, both leaders welcomed the progress of the Rusumo-Kayonza Road Improvement Project and the Ngoma-Ramiro Road Upgrading Project.
6. President Kagame commended Japan's support for improving the water supply in Eastern Province. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Project for Strengthening Nzove-Ntora Principal Water Transmission Pipeline in Kigali City.
7. President Kagame appreciated the achievements made by Japan's support for the improvement of power supply in Kigali. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Project for Improvement of Substations and Distribution Networks(Phase 3) and expressed high expectation for the contribution of this project to stable power supply and the socio-economic development in Rwanda.
8. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of education and vocational training, and President Kagame thanked Japan for its assistance in this domain, particularly the ABE Initiative and support in the ICT sector.
9. Recalling that the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is essential to realize human security and a healthy society that are the foundations for inclusive economic growth, the two leaders reaffirmed the importance of achieving UHC. The two leaders also confirmed that the reduction and eradication of malnutrition of children are fundamental for sustainable development. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe commended the progress made towards achieving UHC in Rwanda under the leadership of President Kagame. The two leaders acknowledged the initiatives led by the two countries respectively in achieving UHC in Africa and shared the view that they would strengthen their efforts to that end, including mobilizing further support from the international community and private sector in the field of health. They also expressed their intention to discuss the issue as one of the areas of focus at TICAD 7.

Trade and Investment

10. The leaders reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen trade and investment. President Kagame appreciated that the Government of Japan dispatched a Public and Private Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment to Rwanda in July 2018. They also expressed confidence in the positive outcomes of the Japan-Rwanda Business Forum organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), to take place on the occasion of the official working visit, which will encourage Japanese companies to expand trade and investment in Rwanda.

Partnerships in Information and Communication, and Space and Geospatial Technologies

11. The two leaders highly appreciated the development of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of information technologies and communication. The leaders also welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Cooperation between relevant ministries of the two countries.

12. Noting the recently signed Memoranda of Cooperation between relevant organizations of the two countries in the areas of space and geospatial technologies, the two leaders expressed their hope to further extend their cooperation in these areas with a view to assisting Rwanda in advancing space development and utilization.

13. The two leaders appreciated the partnership cooperation between Kobe city and Kigali city.

14. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of the East Africa Region Cyber-Security Center. President Kagame expressed appreciation for the support that Japan has provided to the Center.

Cultural, Academic, and People-to-People Exchanges

15. The two leaders decided to further increase cultural and academic exchange. President Kagame expressed appreciation for the support Japan has provided to extend the facilities at the Kigali Genocide

Memorial.

16. The two leaders welcomed the promotion of karate in Rwanda through the activities of the Rwanda Karate Federation, and the support of Japan through the provision of karate equipment and the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.
17. The two leaders confirmed their intention to cooperate toward the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and welcomed the activities on the Host-Town cooperation including the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hachimantai, Iwate Prefecture and the Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee.
18. The two leaders shared the view of the necessity to expand opportunities for Rwandan students to receive higher education, including the utilization of Japanese Government Scholarships.

III. Conclusion

19. President Kagame expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Abe, the Government of Japan and the Japanese people for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to his delegation during this visit.

Tokyo, January 9, 2019