

Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on
the Margins of TICAD7
Yokohama, Japan, August 28, 2019
Co-chairs' Summary

1. The Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel region was held in Yokohama, Japan on August 28, 2019, on the margins of the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). The Conference was co-organized by the Government of Japan and the African Union Commission, and was attended by relevant Ministers and high-level representatives from 25 countries and organizations.
2. H.E. Mr. KONO Taro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and H.E. Amb. Smail CHERGUI, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, made opening remarks, followed by intensive discussions.
3. The participants commended G5 Sahel's efforts on the operationalization of G5 Sahel Joint Force and acknowledged the importance of continued support to the Member States in this regard. The participants emphasized the necessity to improve the security situation in coordination with G5 Sahel Joint Force, MINUSMA and other military and security missions by partner countries and institutions in fight against terrorism in the region. The participants expressed deep concern on the deterioration of the security situation in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, especially in the region of Liptako-Gourma, where an increased number of terrorist attacks have been recorded.
4. Furthermore, the participants recognized the expanding nature of the security threat in the region and its linkages to the challenges confronted in the Lake Chad basin, characterized by the nefarious activities of terrorism and criminal groups. In this regard, they stressed the need to synergize efforts among the countries of the respective sub-regions and to enhance support to the regional initiatives including ad hoc base such as the G5 Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). In this respect, the participants stressed that the Nouakchott Process for Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the Sahel Region remains a critical mechanism to address security and political challenges in an inclusive, comprehensive and integrated manner.
5. The participants underlined the significance of institution-building in enhancing governance and building trust among central and local governments

and communities. The participants also acknowledged that addressing the underlying socio-economic drivers of conflict, and providing governmental services to rural areas, is the key to deny terrorist and violent extremist groups a platform to exercise influence, exploit local grievances, and recruit marginalized and disenfranchised youth into their ranks.

6. The participants shared the importance of effective support by donor countries and international organizations for humanitarian and developmental efforts, including basic social services such as health, nutrition, water, education, food assistance as well as for infrastructure in accordance with the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Program, the AU Strategy for the Sahel region, and UN Support Plan for the Sahel to address the root causes of instability in the region.

7. The participants welcomed the G7 initiative, “Sahel Partnership Action Plan”, announced in G7 summit meeting in Biarritz and renewed their commitment to contributing in line with the Action Plan.

8. The participants stressed the importance of continued humanitarian aid for refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities, which also affect neighboring countries. The participants also shared concern about the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture, livelihoods, and its potential to aggravate inter-communal strife and violent conflict. They also reaffirmed the urgent need of efficient border and customs control to combat the illicit trafficking in drugs, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and trafficking in persons, which are major financial sources of terrorist organizations.

9. With a high youth unemployment rate in the Sahel region, the participants noted the importance of creating employment opportunities and ensuring the participation of youths and women in all aspects of peace and development. The participants also acknowledged the importance of addressing rapid population growth and providing education and vocational training to the youths.

10. Finally, the participants renewed their commitment to further enhancing peace and stability in the Sahel region and strengthening the coordination of their efforts.

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