

**Statement by H.E. Mr. WASHIO Eiichiro,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At Paris Conference on Supporting Democratic Transition in
Sudan**

17 May 2021

(Opening)

- On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my profound appreciation to President Macron for his leadership.
- On this important occasion for rallying support for Sudan's democratic transition, let me talk about Japan's policy and commitment to this vital issue on behalf of Prime Minister Suga.

(Sudan's Re-Engagement with the International Community)

- Japan highly appreciates efforts of the Transitional Government to deliver comprehensive peace, economic recovery, freedom and democracy, and re-engagement with the international community. In particular, we commend the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement in October 2020 and the exchange rate reform in February this year, as tangible achievements to the next significant steps.
- We strongly hope efforts will continue towards the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement with other armed groups.

(Business)

- A key to ensure Sudan's democratic transition is to address the need for a dynamic, sustainable economic growth to underpin the political and security progresses made.
- The economic climate surrounding Sudan is rapidly changing since the birth of the Transitional Government, especially after Sudan's removal from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism by the United States.

- With those shifts, longer-term investments, which will complement economic assistance programs to rebuild Sudan's economy, are becoming a viable option. While challenges remain and additional reforms are needed, Sudan is now one of the fascinating business destinations mainly due to its huge and previously untapped market, and its high economic potential such as its vast and fertile soil, strategic location, and population of 42 million. All of these factors are now attracting many international companies.
- Japanese companies are no exception in this regard. They are showing stronger interests in Sudan, and as a sign of their interest, some Japanese companies actively took part in the Business Forum today.
- To nurture our business relationship, the Government of Japan is also strengthening its business partnership with Sudan and held the first Japan-Sudan Business Cooperation Committee meeting earlier this month.

(Japan's Development Cooperation)

- In addition to our support to build business cooperation with Sudan, Japan continues to assist Sudan through development cooperation, including human resources development.
- In June 2020, Japan pledged 12.3 million U.S. dollars at the Sudan Partnership Conference. On top of that, Japan has been steadily implementing additional 49 million U.S. dollars for cooperation in such areas as water supply and health.

(Debt Relief)

- As for debt issue, Japan will take necessary actions to help Sudan restore debt sustainability if all the conditions are met. Japan expects non-Paris Club creditors to closely work with us.
- In this regards, Japan also expects further progress to be made in Sudan's economic and fiscal reforms.

(Concluding Remarks)

- In addition to the traditional development assistance that Japan has provided since even before 2019, Japan will reinforce our strong support for Sudan's own effort not only through business but through a new approach of industry-government-academia collaboration.
- Thank you very much for your attention.

(END)