

Tunisia-Japan Joint Statement
A new partnership toward
sustainable development, peace and prosperity
August 26th , 2022

1. On August 26th, 2022, H.E. Mr. Kais Saied, President of the Republic of Tunisia, and H.E. Mr. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, held a bilateral meeting.
2. At the meeting, the two Leaders expressed their willingness to strengthen the friendly bonds between Tunisia and Japan and further enhance the cooperation between the two countries. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues.
3. The two Leaders welcomed the hosting of the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) for the first time in Tunisia, a nation deeply connected to Africa, the Middle East and to the Mediterranean, as offering an additional dimension to TICAD.

Partnership for Growth and Sustainable Development

4. The two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the fundamental values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
5. President Saied commended Japan's longstanding support for Tunisia's economic and social development. Prime Minister Kishida expressed Japan's intention to continue sustaining Tunisia's political and economic reforms.
6. The two Leaders confirmed their willingness to revitalize the "Joint Committee" and the "Japan-Tunisia Dialogue on Security and Counter-terrorism."
7. Recognizing Tunisia's multidimensional potential as a regional hub endowed with competent human resources, the two Leaders expressed their commitment to explore new avenues for an innovative partnership, including bilateral economic relations as well as triangular cooperation.

8. The two Leaders welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia to promote technical cooperation between the two countries.
9. With regards to climate change, the two Leaders welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation to establish the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) between Tunisia and Japan with the expectation to enhance bilateral partnership in response to global challenges, including the realization of decarbonized society, and strengthen bilateral economic relations.
10. The two Leaders welcomed the new investments and projects expansion in Tunisia by Japanese companies. They also welcomed the progress made with regard to the discussions towards the conclusion of a bilateral investment agreement, which would constitute an important legal basis for the promotion of investment between Tunisia and Japan, and concurred on accelerating the discussions.
11. The two Leaders recognized COVID-19 pandemic as a threat to international peace and human security, as stated in the Security Council Resolution 2532 initiated by Tunisia and adopted unanimously on July 1st 2020. They called for sustainable international actions to address the negative social-economic impact of the pandemic, particularly on people in vulnerable situations. In this regard, President Saied expressed his appreciation for Japan's effort for strengthening digitalization for vaccination management in Africa.
12. Looking at the post COVID-19 and in order to build back better from the pandemic, the two Leaders concurred on continued close cooperation in the field of health. In this regard, President Saied commended Japan's and international assistance to Tunisia's efforts in combatting the pandemic.
13. Prime Minister Kishida announced the extension of a loan of 12 billion yen to the Tunisian "Project for Support to Strengthen the Social Protection" aiming to assist people in vulnerable situation affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the situation in Ukraine.

14. The two Leaders, within the perspective of achieving sustainable economic growth in Africa, including in Tunisia, confirmed the importance of development finance adhering to the international rules and standards such as debt sustainability and enhanced transparency, as well as mutual accountability. Furthermore, they recognized the importance of multilateral mechanisms dealing with the recovery of funds of illicit origins undermining countries' development efforts.

Partnership for Peace and Stability

15. The two Leaders renewed their commitment to UN Charter principles and international law. They determined to continue cooperating bilaterally and within multilateral fora to promote peace, security and prosperity worldwide.

16. The two Leaders recognized the vital importance of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, not only for the stability of the region but also for international peace and security. They reaffirmed their full support to an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian State. They shared their strong opposition to the continuing settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory which are in violation of relevant UN Resolutions and international law and reiterated their call for immediate halt of such activities.

17. President Saied praised Japan for its role in supporting peace in the Middle East and called for further proceeding of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" as an important initiative in favour of peace and social development for Palestinians.

18. The two Leaders concurred that they strongly oppose any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force, regardless of the location, as a serious threat to the entire international order. The two Leaders confirmed their willingness to further promote the understanding of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" as a vision aiming to support international peace, security, cooperation and solidarity.

19. Recalling the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 of March 2nd 2022, the two Leaders concurred that the ongoing war in Ukraine is a major blow for the world economy with devastating socio-economic implications. In this regard, they confirmed their willingness to work together to solve the current food and energy supply shortages and price increases in the world.
20. Prime Minister Kishida explained the food assistance that Japan has conducted so far for the region, including Tunisia, and expressed Japan's intention to continue to support the stabilization of the region and ensure its food security. President Saied expressed his thanks for Japan's support.
21. The two Leaders determined to deepen their coordination at multilateral level on issues such as dispute settlement, climate change and poverty.
22. President Saied congratulated Japan for its election in June 2022 as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and Prime Minister Kishida congratulated Tunisia for its election as a member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for the period 2022-2024 and expressed his appreciation for the support of Tunisia to the candidature of Japan for the permanent membership in UNSC. Furthermore, they concurred on working together to strengthen the functions of the UN as a whole, including the UNSC reform. Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed Japan's support for the Common African Position on the Security Council reform.
23. The two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to realizing a world without nuclear weapons. Recalling the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs), the two Leaders strongly condemn any destabilising ballistic missile launches and called on the international community to fully implement all UNSCRs on the complete denuclearization of Korean Peninsula. Prime Minister Kishida expressed his gratitude to President Saied for reaffirming commitment to support efforts in resolving the abductions issue immediately.

24. The two Leaders affirmed that the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, will help achieve lasting peace in the region and contribute to the consolidation of security and stability in the world. They recognized the importance of accession by all countries in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Conclusion

25. The two Leaders concurred on visiting each other's country at a time of mutual convenience.

26. Both Leaders expressed their willingness to ensure the full success of TICAD Eight, which Tunisia is hosting on 27,28 August 2022. This is a landmark that will add a new momentum to Africa-Japan partnership.