

**Joint Statement of Japan-Egypt-Jordan**  
**Trilateral Ministerial Consultations on the Middle East**

His Excellency Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, hosted the First Trilateral Consultation mechanism meeting, at the ministerial level, with His Excellency Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and His Excellency Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

- 1- The Ministers underlined the significance of high-level regional dialogues, such as this Trilateral Consultations Mechanism, as it provides a path towards tangible opportunities for deepening regional cooperation, especially in view that the developmental and capacity building aspects are considered crucial components to tackle regional challenges.
- 2- The three Ministers then affirmed their commitment to further expanding the trilateral cooperation to a broader spectrum of areas, which would benefit more countries in the region, and go beyond the current trilateral regional cooperation pilot projects in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. In this vein, they welcomed the outcomes of these projects that are considered an important launching of an ambitious cooperation mechanism between Japan, Egypt and Jordan.
- 3- In this context, the Egyptian and Jordanian Ministers appreciated the various assistance provided by Japan, and the progress that has been achieved so far.
- 4- Focusing on the situation in the Middle East, the discussions reflected convergence of views regarding the crucial importance of achieving peace, security and stability in the Middle East. To this end, the Ministers reaffirmed the significance of preserving the notion of nation-state, and upholding the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, such as respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- 5- The Ministers affirmed the need for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that ends the Israeli occupation of all Palestinian and Arab territories since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and resolves all permanent status issues, including the Palestinian refugees issue, in line with all relevant UN resolutions, the principles of International Law and “Land for Peace”, and the two-state solution.
- 6- Furthermore, the Ministers underscored their support for the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, and underlined the illegality of Israeli settlement activities, and that Israel must fully stop and comply with relevant UN resolutions. They stressed on upholding unchanged the historical status quo in the Holy Sites of the occupied East Jerusalem, with particular regard to the Hashemite Custodianship of H.M King Abdullah II over Jerusalem’s Holy Sites. They also applauded the historical Egyptian efforts to sponsor the Palestinian reconciliation.
- 7- The Ministers also underscored the indispensable role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA),

**in fulfilment of its UN mandate, especially the provision of assistance to 5.9 million Palestinian refugees in five areas of operation. This role ought to continue until achieving a lasting and just solution to the Palestinian refugees issue, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions, especially UN General Assembly resolution 194, and in the framework of a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the basis of two-state solution.**

- 8- The Ministers, noting that UNRWA is suffering from a financial crisis, underscored that UNRWA needs to be provided with sufficient, sustainable and predictable funding from a more diversified and expanded donor base, and called upon the international community to consolidate its support to the Agency.**
- 9- In this context, the Ministers welcomed the ministerial meeting that will be hosted by Jordan and Sweden on the sidelines of the High-level segment of the 78<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly, which will help mobilize political and financial support for UNRWA to continue offering its services efficiently and without interruption.**
- 10- In this framework, the ministers shared their view on the importance of maintaining unchanged current mandate of the Agency, as well as its services to the refugees, which are “exclusive responsibility” of the Agency as per its UN mandate.**
- 11- The Ministers concurred on convening the Second Trilateral Ministerial Meeting in due course with a view to further strengthening the trilateral cooperation.**

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