

CEAPAD IV
Statement by Foreign Minister Iwaya
(July 11, 2025, Kuala Lumpur)

1. Opening Remarks

- Your Excellency Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Your Excellency Dr. Estephan Anton Salameh, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Palestine, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,
- First of all, we are delighted to hold the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD IV) today, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for their dedicated efforts in hosting the meeting.

(Revitalization of CEAPAD)

- Japan aims to achieve peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution. Back in 2013, Japan launched CEAPAD as a framework aimed at supporting Palestinian state-building efforts by mobilizing the resources and development expertise of East Asian countries. We have since developed a series of cooperation and the number of member countries participating in this conference has expanded.
- Today, Palestine has been facing unprecedented difficulties. Even now, the situation in Gaza has not calmed down, and an extremely dire humanitarian situation continues, while urgent humanitarian as well as extensive early-recovery and reconstruction needs have emerged.
- Given these circumstances, enhancing collaboration through CEAPAD is becoming increasingly important to enlarge the assistance base and diversify the assistance means. We are convinced that today's gathering of East Asian partners with these shared views will serve as significant encouragement to Palestine.

(Strengths of CEAPAD, Cooperation with JAIP)

- The challenges Palestine is facing are indeed multi-faceted. A key strength of CEAPAD lies in its capacity of East Asian countries, each with diverse experiences in reconstruction and development, to pool their respective strengths and offer solutions to the wide range of challenges facing Palestine in its reconstruction efforts.
- Furthermore, CEAPAD focuses on capacity-building for state-building. Together with Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, and Singapore, Japan has provided triangular cooperation or technical cooperation in a wide range of fields in Palestine, including administration, education, health, as well as agriculture. Japan is committed to continuing its strong support for human resource development and capacity-building.
- In addition, Cambodia, our new CEAPAD member since last year, invited Palestinian officials to the Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone this year to share their knowledge of industrial park development and management. We appreciate your cooperation.
- In the West Bank, Jericho Agro Industrial Park (JAIP) operates as a flagship project under the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” initiative launched by Japan. JAIP currently accommodates seventeen Palestinian companies, creating approximately three hundred job opportunities. We aim to harness the vitality of the private sector of CEAPAD members towards JAIP for achieving Palestine’s economic independence.

(Japan’s initiatives)

- Japan has provided approximately 2.6 billion US dollars as our assistance to Palestine since 1993. This includes 230 million US dollars provided since October 2023, ranging from financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority, to health and sanitation, food,

debris removal, waste management and infrastructure, among others.

- Japan will continue to consider necessary assistance for UNRWA, supporting Palestine refugees. At the same time, we will encourage the enhancement of its governance.
- Finally, Japan respects and supports Palestinian ownership in building their own future, and consistently supports a two-state solution.
- Providing from this standpoint, Japan will continue to play an active role in humanitarian aid, early-recovery and reconstruction assistance, and supporting Palestinian Authority reforms by leveraging its accumulated experience and expertise in cooperation with partner countries and organizations, including our CEAPAD partners.

2. Closing Remarks

- I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the countries and organizations for your participation, making today's Ministerial meeting a success. Let me once again express our gratitude to Malaysia for hosting this meeting as co-chair.
- I also believe that today's meeting has given a clear hope to the Palestinian people who are working hard for state-building in pursuit of realizing a two-state solution. Japan also calls for the realization of a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible. Based on the outcome of the meeting, I hope that our cooperation and collaboration will be further promoted in the future, and Japan is determined to continue to play an active role as the founding country of CEAPAD.

(End)