

August 2010

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ REGARDING THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE AFRICAN UNION

Preamble

1. We, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AUC), held talks on 2 August, 2010 in Tokyo and exchanged views on wide-ranging issues of concern to the international community and on the role to be played by Japan and the African Union (AU) in addressing those issues.

2. Recognizing the progress in the political and economic integration of Africa as well as the increasing role of the AU in this respect, both sides confirmed that they will further reinforce their cooperation, especially in the following areas:

1. Overall Relations

- In aiming at further enhancing their cooperation in various fields such as peace and security and development, both sides confirmed that they will hold high-level policy talks regularly and also make use of various other opportunities to enhance mutual dialogue.
- The Japanese side welcomed the AUC as a new co-organizer of the TICAD and expressed the hope that the AUC will continue to play an active and constructive role in the process. On its part, the AUC side reaffirmed its commitment and readiness to play that role.
- The Japanese side, recognizing the growing importance of the role of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, expressed its intention to enhance cooperation, including assistance to reinforce the capacity of the RECs. The AUC side welcomed Japan's intention and stated that it will support the strengthening of the cooperative relations between those RECs and Japan.

2. Peace and Security

- The Japanese side highly appreciated the active role being played by the AUC in the area of peace and security, especially its conflict prevention, management and resolution activities, and expressed its intention to continue to support these endeavours.
- The Japanese side also highly appreciated the efforts made by the AU to reinforce its capacity for peace-keeping, through the development and operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and expressed its intention to continue and to reinforce its assistance through the African Union Peace Fund, as well as its assistance to peacekeeping training centers in Africa. The AUC side expressed its appreciation for Japan's contribution.

3. Shared Values

- The AUC side informed the Japanese side that the January 2011 AU Summit will be devoted to the theme of Shared Values. The Japanese side welcomed this theme.
- Taking note of the development of the African Governance Architecture, both sides confirmed that they will continue to cooperate with a view to enhancing and consolidating democracy and governance in Africa. In this respect, the Japanese side expressed its intention to support the AUC on its activities on the strengthening of the processes of democratic elections and election monitoring in Africa.

4. Development

- Recognizing the increasingly important role played by the AU in the field of development, as demonstrated by the integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the AU's structures and processes, the Japanese side expressed its intention to strengthen its cooperation with Africa. This cooperation will encompass such fields as agriculture (including support to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)), region-wide infrastructure development, achievement of the MDGs, as well as human resource development.

- The Japanese side also expressed its intention to consider cooperating for the realization of the vision of the Pan-African University, *inter alia*, through dispatch of experts.
- The Japanese side reiterated its support for the efforts by Africa to promote trade, investment, private sector development and tourism with a view to boosting self-sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

5. Institutional Support

- The Japanese side expressed its willingness to consider providing technical assistance for the AUC, *inter alia*, through training courses for the staff of the AUC.
- Taking note of the efforts being made by the AUC to strengthen its institutional capacity and to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness through its programme inspired by the Japanese concept of KAIZEN, both sides shared the view that they will explore the possibility of future technical cooperation in this area.

6. Global issues

- The Japanese side appreciated the active role the AUC plays in coordinating Africa's actions in tackling global challenges such as environmental issues and climate change, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases, trafficking of narcotic drugs, arms and persons, terrorism and other organized crimes.
- Both sides shared the view that they will strengthen their cooperation to realize "human security".
- Both sides also emphasized the importance and urgency of the reform of the UN Security Council through expanding both permanent and non-permanent categories.

- Recognizing the need for further coordination between Japan and Africa in these areas, both sides confirmed that they will intensify dialogue and cooperation.

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