



# The Third Ministerial Meeting of Arab-Japan Political Dialogue

Secretariat headquarters, Cairo Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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## Joint Statement

### The Third session of the Ministerial Meeting of the Arab-Japan Political Dialogue The League of Arab States, Cairo September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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1. The Third Session of the Ministerial Meeting of the Arab-Japan Political Dialogue was held on 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt (the current presidency of the League Council at the ministerial level), and His Excellency Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, with the participation of their Excellencies the foreign ministers and heads of delegations of the Arab countries, and His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.
2. The Ministers shared the recognition that, as the international community is at a critical juncture, the Arab-Japan cooperation, based on the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the League of Arab States and the Government of Japan in 2013 as a comprehensive institutional framework, has become more important than ever and constitutes an important platform to achieve better mutual understanding and coordination between both sides on regional and international issues of common interest.
3. The Ministers reviewed with satisfaction the current status of cooperation between the two sides, and expressed their aspiration to promote Arab-Japanese cooperation on broader horizons, including cultural, educational, developmental, environmental and energy fields. In this regard, they looked

forward to holding the next session of the Arab-Japan Economic Forum in Japan next year.

4. The Ministers stressed the need to establish a culture of human solidarity as a pillar for maintaining international peace and security. They also stressed the need for joint action in order to address various international challenges, including combating terrorism, achieving sustainable development and energy security, as well as responding to the food security crisis.
5. The Ministers also stressed the need for concerted regional and international efforts in providing humanitarian aid, and appealed to the international community to enhance burden sharing by providing all possible support and assistance to Arab countries hosting refugees. In this regard, the Arab countries commended the continuous humanitarian and financial assistance provided by the Japanese government to Arab countries.
6. The Ministers reviewed the recent developments on the international scene, and stressed the importance of maintaining international peace, security and stability. They further committed to promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and upholding the prohibition of threat or use of force, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. The Ministers further stressed the importance of concerted regional and international efforts to find political solutions to regional issues in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and relevant agreements.
7. 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 occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, occupied Syrian Golan, 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", the Arab Peace Initiative adopted in 2002, and the two-state solution. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to the unity, sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity of Lebanon and called for the full implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions including resolution 1701. The Ministers further supported the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, and affirmed the illegality of Israeli settlement activities and that Israel must fully stop them and comply with the

relevant UN resolutions. They stressed that any action prejudging final status of East Jerusalem should be denied and any acts of violence or incitement should be refrained from. They stressed the importance of 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 valued the Chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee by H.M. King Mohammad VI of the kingdom of Morocco. They also appreciated the historical Egyptian efforts to sponsor the Palestinian reconciliation, as well as the relevant Algerian efforts. The Ministers expressed concerns about deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and called for an end of Israeli closure of people and goods. The Ministers expressed their intentions to continue their political and economic support for Palestine. The Arab Ministers praised Japan's longstanding support for Palestine toward achieving economic independence, including its initiative of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" and the tangible progress of Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP). They stressed the need for the protection of the Palestinian civilians, as well as the importance of UNRWA and the need to support it financially to fulfill its mandate. They also took note of the aspirations of Palestine for full membership at the United Nations. (\*The Republic of Iraq reserved on the term "the two-state solution").

8. The Ministers expressed their concern that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation. They recalled Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, and reaffirmed once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan.
9. The Ministers stressed the importance of the prohibition on the acquisition of territory resulting from the threat or use of force, reaffirmed in the Friendly Relations Declaration of 1970, which serves as a foundation for the promotion of the rule of law. In this context, the Ministers underscored the need to reach, as soon as possible, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They

expressed strong support for all efforts to promote peace in Ukraine, consistent with the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States. In this regard, they also shared the notion that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. (\*The Syrian Arab Republic opposed para 9).

10. The Ministers emphasized the importance of a political solution to the Libyan crisis with Libyan ownership and leadership, facilitated by the United Nations, and to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as possible. They renewed support for efforts to reunify Libyan institutions, the 5 + 5 joint military committee, and stressed the need for all foreign forces, mercenaries and foreign fighters to exit Libya within a specific deadline, and further emphasized the pivotal and essential role of the Libyan neighboring countries aimed at resolving the crisis.
11. The Ministers emphasized on the need to reach a peaceful solution according to Security Council resolution 2254 that preserves Syrian Arab Republic unity, cohesion, and sovereignty, meets the aspirations of its people, rids it of terrorism, and contributes to strengthening the appropriate conditions for the voluntary, dignified, and safe return of Syrian refugees, and respects the territorial integrity and independence of Syria. They further commended the efforts and outcomes of the Arab Contact Group meeting held in Cairo on 14-15 August.
12. The Ministers affirmed commitment to the unity, sovereignty and stability of the Republic of Yemen to support the efforts of the Presidential Leadership Council in order to achieve peace and security in Yemen, in accordance with the three terms of reference of the Gulf initiative and its implementation mechanism, the outcomes of the Conference of Comprehensive National Dialogue, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 2216. The Ministers also reiterated their support to the UN Special Envoy, and expressed their strong hopes that a political dialogue among Yemenis will soon be held.
13. The Ministers welcomed the announcement by the United Nations of the completion of the unloading of 1.14 million barrels of crude oil from the floating tank “Safer”, and praised the efforts of the United Nations work team

and the government of the Republic of Yemen during the past years and the necessary financial support provided by donor countries in order to complete the process of unloading crude oil from the tanker while avoiding a marine environmental disaster that threatens maritime security and the global economy in the Red Sea and the surrounding region.

14. The Ministers also welcomed the hosting of the Summit of Sudan's Neighboring Countries in Cairo on July 13, 2023, and expressed support for the summit's outcomes, especially the need to reach an immediate and sustainable ceasefire, the establishment of corridors to protect civilians and facilitate their exit and the exit of the military forces from the civilian areas and residential buildings and civilian services facilities, and the improvement of humanitarian conditions. They looked forward to ending the current situation, and setting up mechanisms to settle the crisis peacefully.
15. The Ministers welcomed the short- and long-term cease-fire and humanitarian arrangements, which was signed in Jeddah with Saudi-American mediation, and the Kingdom's joint presidency of the donors' conference for Sudan with Qatar, Germany, Egypt, the African Union, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Kingdom's allocation of \$100 million in humanitarian aid to Sudan through the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action and the launch of the popular campaign on the Sahem platform for the relief of the Sudanese people.
16. The Ministers emphasized support to all peaceful efforts, including the initiative and endeavors exerted by United Arab Emirates to reach a peaceful solution to the issue of the Three Islands, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, through bilateral negotiations, in accordance with principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations (UN).
17. The Ministers renewed their commitment to support international efforts in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament in accordance with relevant international agreements and treaties, especially the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In this context, the Arab Ministers welcomed the "Hiroshima Action Plan," as a welcome contribution to achieving a world without nuclear weapons. The Ministers also expressed

their strong support for the prompt implementation of the resolution on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as well as their delivery systems in the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, in line with UNDC Principles and Guidelines of 1999, which could lead to strengthening security and stability at the regional and international levels. In this regard, the Ministers emphasized the importance of achieving universal adherence to the NPT, including in the Middle East.

18. The Ministers highlighted the importance of implementing existing commitments undertaken, including those contained in the decisions and resolution of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, the outcome document of the 2000 Review Conference, and unequivocal undertakings by the nuclear-weapon States (NWS) to achieve the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a verifiable and irreversible manner. In this regard, the Ministers recalled the obligation of States Parties to the NPT under Article VI of the treaty. The Ministers also shared the recognition on the importance of the early commencement of negotiation on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and addressing existing stockpiles with a view to achieving both disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, taking into consideration the report of the Conference on Disarmament (CD/1299).
19. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula and emphasized the importance of taking concrete steps towards the complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula consistent with the relevant UNSC resolutions. They strongly condemned the unprecedented number of ballistic missile launches, and pursuit of nuclear weapons, including the previous nuclear test conducted by North Korea on September 3, 2017 and strongly urged North Korea to immediately fulfil its obligations and commitments under relevant UNSC resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. They further emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community. (\*The Syrian Arab Republic reserved on para 19).

20. The Arab and Japanese sides stressed the importance of working together to face challenges related to climate change at all levels, and those facing achieving sustainable development, and expressed their commitment to making all efforts to address these urgent issues. They emphasized the importance of raising the ambition of climate aspirations both in terms of action and support by setting and achieving their nationally determined goals and contributions to enhance adaptation and resilience and reduce emissions, including through expanding renewable energy production, supporting sustainable development and finding innovative solutions and technologies that will accelerate the transition to low-carbon and climate resilient economies, through just transition pathways. The ministers also recognized the importance of finalizing the first global stocktake to evaluate the progress made in implementing the goals of the Paris Agreement, and call on all countries to fully deliver on their contributions and pledges under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. And to ensure a successful Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which the United Arab Emirates will host in November 2023, through balanced and implementation focus outcomes. They also welcomed the outcomes of COP27 in Egypt and commended Egypt for hosting and leading in the meeting, and in this regard highlighted the importance of delivering on all elements agreed in COP27.
21. The Ministers stressed the importance of preserving water security for all Arab countries, especially those with water scarcity issues, and the need for all countries sharing rivers to adhere to their obligations in accordance with the contractually binding legal frameworks and the applicable rules of international law. They stressed the need for countries sharing rivers to negotiate in good faith in order to reach fair, balanced and binding agreements that preserve the rights of all parties in accordance with international law and refrain from unilateral measures that could undermine or threaten such negotiations.
22. The Ministers emphasized the importance of the safety of sea lanes and international navigation, as stipulated in international law, agreements, and relevant United Nations resolutions. In this context, they shared their views

on the importance of the free and open international order based on the rule of law, underpinned by values such as freedom, openness, diversity, inclusiveness, and the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

23. The Ministers condemned the repeated attacks on the Holy Qur'an, and emphasized the importance of avoiding such attacks and respecting the religious beliefs of others. At the same time, the Ministers shared the view that such issues need to be resolved through dialogue, not through violence, and in accordance with relevant international law.
24. The Ministers welcomed the election of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the years 2024 and 2025. The Ministers of Japan and Algeria look forward to working closely as Council members in 2024.
25. The Ministers affirmed their appreciation for the important and effective role played by the Egypt/Japan co-presidency for the Third Session of the Ministerial Meeting of the Arab/Japan Political Dialogue, as well as for the contributions of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in this regard, and expressed their aspiration to hold the Fourth Session in 2025

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