

JOINT STATEMENT

The fourth Japan-Morocco Joint Committee was held on the 26th of April, 2018 in Tokyo, co-chaired by Mr. Masahisa SATO, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mrs. Mounia BOUCETTA, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting was an opportunity to review overall bilateral relations and examine ways and means to further enhance cooperative ties between Japan and the Kingdom of Morocco, so as to meet the aspirations of the both countries and the objectives set for their collaboration.

On this occasion, both sides hailed the respect and esteem, characterizing relations between the Imperial and Royal families, and expressed their satisfaction over the excellent relations over more than six decades.

Both sides welcomed the progress made in the bilateral relations since the last session of Joint Committee held in Rabat in 2014, marked by the opening of the office of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Rabat in 2014, the first in the Maghreb and the sixth in Africa, as well as the rise of Japanese companies investing in the Kingdom of Morocco.

Both sides noted with satisfaction successful closing of negotiations on the Agreement for the promotion and protection of investment and confirmed their intention to sign this Agreement in the near future, emphasizing that this Agreement will further intensify the dynamic cooperation by opening new horizon for the Japan-Morocco economic partnership.

Both sides also expressed their determination and commitment to spare no effort to promote their multilayered bilateral cooperation at various levels and pursue their common objectives to take Japan-Morocco partnership to a higher level, so as to meet expectations of the Governments and peoples of the two countries.

Both sides confirmed the necessity to harness the existing synergy opportunities on both sides and fully exploit the potential of their economies.

The Moroccan side encouraged the business communities of the two countries to consolidate and invigorate the flows of trade and investments in both directions, to increase contacts, to participate in fairs and exhibitions organized in both

countries and identify new niches for joint ventures in global businesses: the car industry, the aviation industry and agri-business, among others.

The Moroccan side reiterated the importance of the Kingdom of Morocco's industrialization and economic growth and expressed its expectation of further involvement of the Japanese private sector in the Kingdom of Morocco. The Japanese side expressed its willingness to support the Moroccan side's effort to promote Japanese companies' business activities in the Kingdom of Morocco by disseminating information and encouraging business encounter on different occasions within the existing framework for dialogue.

The Moroccan side highlighted the importance granted by the Kingdom of Morocco to the consolidation of its relations with African countries and to the development of the continent through a win-win approach partnership, in the light of the Kingdom of Morocco's return to the African Union.

The Moroccan side also lauded Japan's support to the economic and social development in African countries namely through TICAD process. Both sides praised the successful tripartite cooperation established since 1998 between Japan and the Kingdom of Morocco for the benefit of African countries and confirmed the importance to expand the scope of this cooperation in order to further contribute to the development of other African countries.

The Japanese side welcomed the invitation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to visit the Kingdom of Morocco. The dates will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

State Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Japan

Secretary of State to the
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International
Cooperation of the Kingdom
of Morocco

Tokyo, on the 26th of April, 2018