

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**September 5, 2017**

CONTACT:

p.spokesman@op.gov.eg**President El Sisi Meets South Africa's President**

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

President El Sisi affirmed that Egypt is keen on enhancing cooperation and coordination with South Africa and stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among various African countries so as to measure up to the level of challenges that they face and to fulfill the aspiration of their peoples for development and stability. The President affirmed Egypt's keenness on enhancing cooperation with the BRICS member states, which is considered one of the most important groupings at the international level, and wished South Africa success in hosting the next summit.

President Zuma affirmed his country's interest in strengthening cooperation with Egypt and noted its pivotal role in Africa and the Middle East. He also expressed the keenness of the BRICS member states on enhancing cooperation with developing countries so as to realize mutual interests.

President Zuma affirmed South Africa's keenness on inviting Egypt to the BRICS summit next year. He noted the wish for BRICS to be a grouping that disseminates peace, stability and cooperation. President El Sisi and President Zuma reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest. They stressed the importance of continuing to enhance trade between the two countries and expressed their support for the Cairo-Cape Town Highway project so as to boost trade between the two countries as well as with other African countries. The two presidents affirmed the need to resume convening the joint committee so as to enhance cooperation across various fields. They also discussed ways to mobilize regional and international efforts aimed at combating terrorism and extremism, which impede development.

The meeting touched on a number of issues pertinent to the African continent. The two presidents stressed the importance of working to reach peaceful solutions to the conflicts in Africa and to seek restoring security and stability across it. They affirmed the need to continue coordination and consultation at the level of the African Union and other international fora. President El Sisi highlighted Egypt's unwavering policy that is based on cooperation with all countries and collaboration to resolve conflicts through constructive dialogue to realize peace and development. This is addition to rejecting the interference in other countries' internal affairs.

President El Sisi extended an invitation for President Zuma to attend the international youth conference and "Africa 2017" forum scheduled to take place in Sharm el Sheik in November and December 2017, which President Zuma welcomed.

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