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CONTACT:

p.spokesman@op.gov.eg

President El Sisi Arrives in Gabon

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi arrived in Libreville, Gabon. The President headed to the presidential palace where he was received by Gabonese President Ali Bongo and a formal reception was held.

President El Sisi and President Ali Bongo held a session of bilateral talks that later expanded to include delegations from both countries. President Ali Bongo lauded President El Sisi's historic visit, which coincides with Gabon's National Day celebrations. He lauded the strong bilateral relations and affirmed Gabon's interest in further enhancing them as well as promoting cooperation frameworks in the economic and trade sectors. He stressed the importance of effectuating agreements that were signed during his visit to Egypt last year and affirmed that Egypt is a major economic power in Africa. He emphasized President El Sisi's open approach to Africa and Egypt's regaining of its active role in the continent. He also noted the good reputation of Egyptian companies operating in Africa and looked forward to having them increase their activities in Gabon.

President El Sisi congratulated President Ali Bongo and the people of Gabon on the occasion of celebrating the National Day and lauded the national dialogue that President Ali Bongo launched, which had a positive outcome and contributed to Gabon's stability.

President El Sisi lauded the outstanding ties and cooperation between the two countries. He affirmed Egypt's keenness on further enhancing political, economic, security and military cooperation, in light of Egypt's interest in enhancing cooperation with Gabon and African countries so as to reinforce development and stability. The President also affirmed Egypt's keenness on increasing investment in Gabon and enhancing cooperation between the private sector in both countries. He expressed interest in enhancing cooperation in the health sector, given that there is an Egyptian hospital in Gabon. The President asserted Egypt's keenness on providing technical support to Gabon in the field of capacity building through training sessions in civil and military specializations offered by the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development.

Bilateral talks touched on a number of African issues, given that Gabon currently chairs the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The two presidents discussed ways to resolve the region's crises, in light of Egypt's membership of the UN Security Council and its role

in supporting efforts to resolve crises, particularly in Central Africa. They agreed to continue coordination between the two countries within the African Union and United Nations.

Discussions touched on environmental issues, given that President Ali Bongo is the coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change. This is in addition to transferring the chairmanship of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) from Egypt to Gabon last June. The two presidents stressed the need to continue coordination between the two countries on these issues and support Africa's unified position on climate change negotiations.

Talks included agreeing on effectuating military and security cooperation and coordinating counter-terrorism efforts to confront threats posed by terrorism on the security and stability of African countries and the world.

President El Sisi extended an invitation to President Ali Bongo to participate in the International Youth Conference and the Africa 2017 Forum, to take place in Sharm el Sheikh in November and December.

The two presidents agreed on convening the joint committee in Gabon before the end of the year so as to effectuate cooperation frameworks at various levels. The two presidents witnessed the signing of an agreement to enhance trade between Egypt and Gabon.

President El Sisi and President Ali Bongo visited an exhibition for wood products, given that both countries look forward to reinforcing cooperation in this area.