

President El Sisi Meets President of Chad Déby in N'Djamena

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi held bilateral talks with President of Chad Idriss Déby upon his arrival in the capital N'Djamena on Thursday. The meeting was followed by an expanded session of talks attended by the two countries' delegations. President Déby welcomed President El Sisi's visit, and noted that it is the first by an Egyptian President to Chad in the history of the two countries' relations. The President of Chad commended President El Sisi's tour to African countries, which underscores Egypt's African affiliation as well as President El Sisi's direction toward restoring Egypt's role in the continent.

President Déby lauded the close relations and longstanding bonds between Egypt and Chad and stressed his country's commitment to stepping up cooperation with Egypt in various fields. He also confirmed Chad's keenness on encouraging Egyptian investments in Chad, and pointed out his government's decision to exempt Egyptian businessmen from acquiring an entry visa to Chad in order to attract Egyptian investors and offer them the necessary facilities. President Déby commended the activities of Egyptian companies operating in Chad, and asserted the Chadian government's commitment to removing any obstacles facing the Arab Contractors Company and EgyptAir. The President of Chad expressed his appreciation for the capacity-building and training programs in the military and civilian areas, particularly in the educational field, which Egypt provides to Chad.

President El Sisi expressed his pleasure for visiting Chad for the first time, and commended the historic relations between the two countries. The President emphasized Egypt's commitment to enhancing and further advancing relations with Chad across various levels, taking into consideration that the two countries are located in a region beset by various challenges. President El Sisi highlighted the broad prospects for fostering closer economic cooperation and increasing trade between the two countries in the areas of livestock, health, agriculture, irrigation, infrastructure and energy. He confirmed Egypt's interest to continue cooperation with Chad in the field of capacity-building through training sessions offered by the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) in various civilian and military specializations.

The meeting witnessed an alignment of views with regard to a range of regional and international issues. The two Presidents also condemned all terrorist crimes committed in various parts of the world, notably the latest terrorist attack in Burkina Faso. In this regard President Déby lauded President El Sisi's efforts and firm position in the face of terrorism and extremism.

President El Sisi also commended Chad's counter-terrorism efforts in the African Sahel region, and expressed appreciation for the huge sacrifices it offered in this regard. The two Presidents agreed on the need to intensify efforts at both the regional and international levels to counter terrorist organizations and organized crimes groups.

President El Sisi and President Déby discussed the latest developments in Libya, and confirmed the importance of continuing efforts to support dialogue among Libyans in order to

assist them to reach the necessary political settlement, which will allow the endorsement of the state's institutions and fulfil the aspirations of the Libyan people. President Déby commended President El Sisi's efforts to reach a political settlement to the Libyan crisis.

Concluding their meeting, the two Presidents agreed to reinvigorate the two countries' joint committee and to convene its next meeting in Egypt before the end of this year so as to enhance cooperation fields at various levels.

President El Sisi extended an invitation to the President of Chad to participate in the International Youth Conference and "Africa 2017" Forum which are scheduled to be held in Sharm El Sheikh next November and December. President Déby welcomed the invitation and noted that he looks forward to visiting Egypt at the earliest opportunity.