

H.E. Mr. OSMAN Saleh Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
State of Eritrea Statement on the 3<sup>rd</sup> TICAD Ministerial  
Follow-up Meeting in Dakar, Senegal - 1 to 2 May 2011

Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye,

Foreign Minister of Japan, Honourable Takiko Matsumoto,

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Honourable Chiaki Takahashi,

Honourable Colleagues,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I am here in this beautiful, historic city of Dakar to convey a message of solidarity and to express continued support of the Government and people of Eritrea to the preparedness, relentless self-effort, resilience, innovation and spiritual commitment shown by the Government and people of Japan in the face of the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011, as well as on the ongoing dangerous crisis surrounding the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant. We believe that this is a challenge to which Japanese society must rise and Africa must extend its support as the disaster is the most troubling crisis Japan has faced since the nation's defeat in World War II.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to convey my deep appreciation and gratitude to the hospitality and support provided to our delegation by the organizers and the Republic of Senegal and its people during this important TICAD IV 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Follow-up Meeting which is being held in this historic city of Africa - Dakar, Senegal.

H.E. Mr. Abduloulaye Wade President of the Republic of Senegal visionary statement which was made at the July 2007 African Union Summit in Accra, Ghana: "If we fail to unite, we will become weak, and if we live isolated in countries that are divided, we face the risk of collapsing in the face of the stronger and united economies" was indeed predictive of the current challenges facing Africa.

Japan's initiative and commitments set sail through the Tokyo International Cooperation for African Development (TICAD), after the fall of Berlin – Wall, was similarly visionary and predicative too.

Prospective for growth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into Africa and GDP growth in our continent is slowly on the rise in 2011. Business tie-up between Japan and Africa is also improving. In spite of the global financial melt-down, the status of support measures announced in TICAD IV Yokohama Action Plan have also already shown concrete progress in the given period i.e. half way to the next Japan – Africa Summit.

Therefore, please allow me to share with you briefly in this meeting Eritrea's perspective on the some of the important challenges facing TICAD IV and way forward:

**(1) Climate hazards posed by carbon dioxide emission of the developed and developing economies such as:**

Temperature increase, reduced precipitation, chronic drought, flash flooding, heat stress, El Niño effects, and sea level rise are affecting food security, water supply, public health,

wildlife, coastal resources and fragile ecosystem making our country and other African countries liable to drought and desertification and an economy highly dependent on the consumption of fossil fuel. The process followed to mitigate these hazards in my country is primarily based on an innovative national adaptation program of self - effort. Continued facilitation of the transfer of skill, technology and resources by Japan is needed so that effective adaptation can continue to take place. Eritrea is a Greenfield for geo-thermal, hydro and wind generated energy.

Many African countries used to export food during the 60<sup>th</sup>. The average GDP per capita of African countries was higher than the Asian countries from 1960s to the mid 70<sup>th</sup>. Many African countries are importing food; GDP per capita of countries in Africa is far lower than in Asia in 2011. Climate change has significantly contributed, among many other factors, to the creation of such a situation.

**(2) Establishing direct cooperation activities in areas of trade, investment and tourism both in short term and long term and beyond the TICAD process:**

we need to examine in this meeting, objectively and transparently, the background against which policy dialogue can be interfaced in the next horizon of the bilateral with Japan and look into ways and means of establishing direct cooperation activities of trade, investment, tourism, related ancillary infrastructures and services both in short term and long term including but not excluding beyond the TICAD process.

Local and Japanese experts from Nippon Mining revealed major sulphide deposits occurring in the areas of Embaderho, Adi Rassi, Debarwa, Adi Nefas, Weki and other areas in Eritrea in the early seventies. Japanese companies made several investments in leather, textile, house-wares, aluminium and other small and medium manufacturing enterprises in Eritrea during the same period. Japan started the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) for Africa in the early seventy. The first Yen – Loan Agreement with Ethiopia was signed in 1973. This period coincides with the beginning of Nippon Mining and investment in Eritrea.

Japan has been a key catalyst in the creation of the tiger economies of the Asian countries in the last forty years as well as in the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, commonly know as BRICS, in the last twenty years. TICAD process has also been a bridge, though unevenly spread in Africa, linking successfully Africa and Japan businesses and policy makers.

An inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Africa is expected to increase sharply in the coming decade against a backdrop of increased volume commitments of development projects in different sectors of the continent.

**(3) Japan being one the biggest economies in the world, there is a continued need to explore ways and means to join efforts to maintain peace and stability and ensure prosperity in Africa:**

Hegemony in the period of the 17<sup>th</sup> century agrarian revolution and 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial revolution has lead to the sad and barbaric history of slavery and colonialism

in Africa by the Europeans. Eritrea believes hegemony currently adrift in 21<sup>st</sup> century is challenging the mere survival of the 53 independent countries of Africa and the African Union. A conflict of interest in the continent only be avoided through mutual joint effort of respect of the basic right and dignity of every nation, race and creed in this planet including but not excluding Africa.

In conclusion I would like to say that a wise and scientific navigation forward is not only imperative but should be followed with much vigour and focused with mutually innovative national, bilateral and trilateral efforts to achieve positive results for Japan - Africa mutual future. We also believe that this is congruent to Japan's long standing commitment and measures taken to African countries development during the last four TICADs.

Eritrea believes that it is high time that TICAD process is further be developed and be transformed into an active negotiation platform between Africa and Japan on the possible investment agreements and improvement of business environment concerning ventures between Japan and African countries during this important period of our history.

African countries can and must benefit from Japan history of survival and wisdom. Japan also can.

Thank you