

Remarks by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in the Tokyo Africa Club (TAC) Meeting Tokyo February 26, 2015

His Excellency Mr. Norio Maruyama Director General of African Affairs Department MoFA,

His Excellency Mr. Hiroyasu Kobayashi, Ambassador in Charge of RECs, Peace and Security in Africa MoFA,

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Konichiwa!

Let me first thank His Excellency Mr. Norio Maruyama Director General of African Affairs Department MoFA, for organizing the first Tokyo Africa Club (TAC) meeting in 2015 to exchange ideas and opinions between the stakeholders of Japan and the African Diplomatic Corps on how best to start preparation for TICAD VI.

I would like to inform this meeting that the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) has revamped the TICAD Committee under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Charles MURIGANDE Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda in view starting preparation for TICAD VI which is tentatively planned to be held in January or Mid 2016.

The ADC last meeting held on January 26, 2015 has agreed on the general orientation for preparing the “ADC proposal for TICAD VI” and has made division of labor and drawn a tentative time line for its activities towards this end. A task group composed of two Ambassadors from each regional group of Africa i.e. East Africa: Djibouti and Kenya; Central Africa: Cameroon & Congo; North Africa: Morocco and Tunisia; and Southern Africa: Angola and South Africa has also been assigned by ADC to improve and support the effectiveness and efficiency of this preparation.

Based on the same decision diplomats appointed from the same missions mentioned above were given 3-4 weeks to make a survey of the existing information which can be provided by the different

stakeholders of TICAD V including and not excluding the African Union Commission and prepare draft of “ADC proposal for TICAD VI”; to be considered by ADC for adoption as a zero draft by second week of March; and full consultation to be completed by April 10, 2015. ADC plenary is then expected to review and send the final zero draft proposal of ADC to the African Union Commission on April 15, 2016.

Therefore, I would like to inform the meeting that ADC is doing all in its capacity to accelerate the preparation of TICAD VI and it shall remain seized and in constant engagement with Japan for the successful Summit of Africa Japan leaders in 2016.

With this note, let me ask the Vice Chair of TICAD Committee H.E. Mr. Belimiro Jose MALATE Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique, to add a few words.

Thank you,