

**MESSAGE OF H.E. ISAIAS AFWERKI**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ERITREA**  
**TO THE 7th SUMMIT OF TICAD**  
**YOKOHAMA, 28-30 AUGUST, 2019**

Allow me to convey my sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for its serious and relentless interest to foster robust partnership with Africa.

The profound changes that have occurred globally- especially in the Americas, Europe and Asia- in the past decades since the launching of TICAD have been colossal indeed.

Where is the place of Africa against this backdrop of global changes?

In the immediate aftermath of colonialism, the Founding Fathers who spearheaded the struggle for the liberation and independence of the peoples of Africa had blazed an inspiring path. But their lofty aspirations have not been realized. The forces of domination and exploitation have employed all possible means to marginalize Africa and usurp its resources in the past sixty years. Still, the primary blame rests on us Africans. We need to solve our own problems ourselves.

We can draw many lessons from Japan's trajectory and history of development. The opportunity for fostering genuine partnership between Japan and Africa is also huge. Building a successful and sustainable partnership is however predicated on the existence of a congenial setting. In the event, it will be vital to chart out, at this juncture, a new roadmap for a genuine and effective partnership by thoroughly appraising the global developments that have unfolded in the past quarter century and future trends. I humbly urge that this cardinal issue is broached in the current Summit.

I thank you.