

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the special reception on the occasion of the official visit of the President of the AfDB, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina 15 October 2024

Dr. Akinwumi A. ADESINA, President of the African Development Bank Group

Mr. Tetsuro YANO, President of AFRECO and former Senior Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Atsushi MIMURA, Vice-Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Mr. Nobumitsu, HAYASHI, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

Ms. Katsura MIYAZAKI, Executive Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Mr. Masahiro ASANO, Deputy Managing Director of Africa Society of Japan

Dr. Yoshiaki TERUMICHI, President of Sophia University

All the distinguished guests from Ministries, Public and Private Sectors, Keizai Doyukai, Universities, and Development Partners in Tokyo.

Excellencies and Dear Collogues – Members of the African Diplomatic Corps

Good evening,

I am taking the floor to extend, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and in my capacity as Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, our deep-felt gratitude and thanks for the invitation extended by Director Mr. Osamu KAWANISHI of African Development Bank Asia External Office to attend this important reception. On this occasion, let me take this opportunity to welcome and

wish a successful working visit in Japan and Asia to President ADESINA and AfDB delegation present.

As we all know, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) is going to be held in YOKOHAMA CITY in the coming August 2025. The ongoing preparation for this summit is indeed very important. The current visit to Tokyo of President Adesina on this particular period indicates the important role that the AfDB is playing in the continued improvement and enhancement of the TICAD process.

AfDB is one of the most important partners in the current TICAD process. Mutual efforts between Africa and Japan on quality infrastructure investments is strategic to building regional peace, stability, prosperity and cooperation. The role of Japan private sector and the AfDB role being played in these endeavors is very critical in achieving the win-win and safe transfer of technology, knowhow and capital of Japan to the African countries.

The African Diplomatic Corps and the AfDB office have worked through various programs in the past and will continue to work closely in the future in building and promoting the bridge of understanding being built in our continent between Africa and Japan.

Thanks to the role played by the AfDB in general and President Adesina front leadership in particular, the economic frontiers between Asian and African countries are in a situation of an open-door diplomacy now.

Thank you and all the best,