

REMARKS MADE BY H.E. MR. ESTIFANOS AFEWORKI AMBASSADOR OF ERITREA TO JAPAN AND HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA AT THE 1ST TICAD V MINISERIAL MEETING, 4 TO 5 MAY, 2014 Yaoundé, REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Honorable guests
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Ensuring food security is one of the top priorities and cornerstone for an inclusive sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication strategy of Eritrea. The benchmark of this strategy is: the Eritrean population must have sufficient quantity of acceptable quality of food at an affordable price at any time and place of the country. In simple terms, this means, Eritrea shall not export gold to import food.

Therefore, since independence of Eritrea, in 1993, in the last two decades, several implementation programs of food security activities have been undertaken to rehabilitate a war-torn-subsistence based-agricultural-economy by various means of expanding farming areas which are compatible with the different agro-ecological conditions of the various climatic zones of the country through an effective national activities of community self-effort and participation.

Through this national program:

1. **Improved rangeland management system and infrastructure** has been rolled out on the ground to offset and improve the traditional postural system of the country. Special attention has been paid to increase through out the country food/cash crop, vegetables, fruits, bee, chicken, livestock and dairy products with continued positive results;
2. Though challenges are still there, **industrial and artisanal fisheries** have also improved their input to the national food security program. The fisheries sector is offering great prospects for meeting food security objectives and earning of foreign exchange for the country. Eritrea is slowly but surely on the road to building a vibrant and modern marine resources sector;

3. Major development campaigns on the protection of forestry and wildlife, irrigation improvements, **modernization of farming** techniques and related measures have also been taken both at national and local level;
4. To enhance **water security**, the construction of reservoirs, small dams, water catchments, improvement of irrigation systems have been intensified throughout the country. Its effects on the farmers and livestock who deepened solely in the past for their livelihood on the seasonal rains are showing phenomenal improvements;
5. Eritrea has special needs regarding adaptation to climate change. An overriding need is for developed country parties to the Convention, other stakeholders and Japan, to take full account of these circumstances in order to facilitate the transfer of needed technology and resources so that effective **National Climate Adaptation Plan of Eritrea** can continue to take place through the available means or conduit of cooperation;
6. Eritrea has developed a strategy to develop **tourism industry** - given its rich bio diversity in its Red Sea coastal waters and human heritage sites resources in the hinterland. This has promoted the flow of private and direct investment with some degree of success;
7. **Eritrea's small and medium enterprises (SME)** sector holds great potential for generating employment, adapting technology, and creating an export base which is grounded in the country's true comparative advantage of its ideal Red Sea location, abundant rich natural resources and its traditional history as a trade and business corridor to the country and its hinterland - Horn of Africa with the world; and
8. Eritrea realizes that the key and footprints to lure **Japanese direct investment and cooperation** in our national self-effort process is all also included in the road map outlined in TICAD V; and looks forward to expanded cooperation with Japan and other development partners to encourage and put its contribution in the domestic, regional and international trade

through a bilateral and multilateral dialogue with all the stakeholders of this program.

Therefore, Eritrea expresses in this meeting its welcome and support to the six TICAD V pillars of cooperation put in place and **Implementation Matrix and Yokohama Action Plan - 2013 – 2017.**

Last but not least, let me thank the all the co-organizers of TICAD, Cameroon and Japan for their contribution to the successful conduct of this 1st TICAD V Follow-up Ministerial Meeting.
