

Remarks Made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps on the Occasion of the Association of Wives of African Ambassador in Japan (AWAAJ) Charity Dinner Dance 22nd April 2016: -

- **Mrs. Alphonsine Brigitte Ndzengue, Wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to Japan and President of the Association of Wives of African Ambassador in Japan (AWAAJ)**
- **Esteemed members of AWAAJ**
- **Honorable guests present**
- **Excellencies and Colleagues**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Tonight the Association of Wives of African Ambassadors in Japan (AWAAJ) has organized and setup, once again, a successful annual event of Charity Dinner Dance to provide and raise money to those in need of help and assistance - here in Japan as well as in Africa. Therefore, first and foremost, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and myself, let me join previous speaker, Mrs. Alphonsine, to express our solidarity and deep felt gratitude to the AWAAJ members and all the participants of this charity event for their noble action and to congratulate them for organizing this successful event.

Secondly, allow me to repeat and convey the same message that I made in a similar event organized by AWAAJ in 2014.

This action of giving money, goods and your precious time to the unfortunate members of our societies, both in Africa and Japan, though not a fundamental solution to all problems and challenges they are facing, it is a worthy effort and one of the traditional values, duties and obligations cherished and practiced by all the followers of the different religious denominations and cultures throughout our common histories.

It is sad and inhuman to stand by and watch TV footages of savage human carnages in civilization centers, cities, towns and villages across the globe in the 21st century. No human being can close his eyes and feel safe in such a sad situation of man made and natural disaster situations.

No human being can feel safe, when mothers, children, old and young people are caught and savagely targeted from sea, air and land indiscriminately with distractive weapons including but not excluding weapons of mass destruction by all sides with impunity.

In this era of plenty of the 21st century, no human being can feel safe, when populations are moving away in millions from their ancestral homes gripped with fear, resignation and hopelessness to unknown destinations through undignified routes of human traffickers and modern day slave trade systems. It is a well-known global reality today that a significant number of world populations are in need of recovery and relief activities. This charity dinner, how small it

might look, is an important gesture and an expression of our understanding of these circumstances, as well as opportune venue to express our collective compassion and solidarity to fellow human beings in our planet earth - especially those ones who are currently in very difficult situations.

Therefore, the need and resolve to protect disadvantaged part of humanity through direct and indirect support as well as through social security systems is not only pertinent and just but human too.

The African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo has donated Yen 300,000 as a token of solidarity to this event. The African Diplomatic Corps wish AWAAJ and all the participants success in their continued endeavors.

Last but not least let me take this opportunity to express, in this sorrowful time, because of the aftereffects of the earthquakes in Kumamoto and Oita prefecture, I would like to extend to all the Japanese friends present here my heartfelt condolences.

Thank you,