

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the Occasion of Tokyo Africa Club (TAC) meeting on April 6 2017:

**Ambassador Takeshi Osuga, DG, African Affairs Department (MoFA)
Excellencies, Dear Colleagues & honorable participants**

Let me first thank MoFA once again for organizing the Tokyo Africa Club (TAC) meeting of today. It is well realized now; that the continued consultations conducted between MoFA and the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC), both formal and informal, are key to the success of the TICAD process.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to highlight four points concerning current alignment of ADC in the TICAD process:

1. Standing Committees of ADC: ADC has made the necessary preparations to get proactively involved with the co-organizers in the works that involve the TICAD Joint Secretariat, Joint Monitoring Group and Follow-up Meetings. The standing committees of ADC i.e. 1) TICAD 2) Trade and Investment 3) Media, Culture and Tourism 4) Science and Technology 5) Africa Day Reception chaired by Burkina Faso, Kenya, Angola, Algeria and South Africa respectively have developed their work plan for 2017. Therefore, it might be appropriate to call upon the chairs to present their work plan in brief and exchange ideas and opinions if needed with the DG in this meeting or in another mutually agreed time.

2. Regional Economic Community: As we all know, TICAD VI Nairobi Declaration has embraced African Agenda 2063 and SDGs. Therefore, it becomes imperative at this juncture to enhance policy dialogue between Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa and Co-organizers of TICAD including and not excluding the bilateral between African countries and Japan. Therefore, ADC shall encourage in 2017 active participation of the Deans of 1) Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), 2) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), 3) Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), 4) East African Community (EAC), 5) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), 6) Economic Community of Western Africa States (ECOWAS), 7) Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and 8) Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); and work towards the promotion of the outcome of Nairobi TICAD for next three years in Tokyo. The RECs, as we all know, are the building blocks for African Union.

3. Concrete deliverables of TICAD: it is ADC's strong believe that the next three years will focus on concrete deliverables, such as supporting the SDGs in each of our countries, improving the business environment and support growth through trade and investment.

4. TICAD Ambassador: Let me also applaud the Government of Japan for bringing back TICAD V head once again to Tokyo. Ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura's wealth of experience in Africa, New York shall definitely help in

shaping TICAD VII. ADC will work hand in hand with him towards another successful TICAD under his leadership.

Thank you