

Remarks Made by H. E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Head of the Delegation of the State of Eritrea On the Occasion of the TICAD VI Ministerial Follow-up Meeting Maputo Mozambique August 24 to 25, 2017:

Co-Chairs
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,
(All protocol observed)

Let me start by extending our delegations' heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the brotherly welcome and hospitality extended to us by the Government and people of Mozambique. On the onset, let me also take this opportunity to express to Japan our delegations' appreciation for the continued generosity and support provided to our nation building efforts through the Tokyo International Cooperation on Africa Development (TICAD) Process. We are grateful for the more than USD180 million grant assistance provided through various projects in the last 24 years.

Realizing the cardinal role investment and trade plays in the mutual interest and development imperatives of countries, the delegation of Eritrea welcomes and encourages Japan public and private sector to participate through ODA, equity, shares and loan programs in the development and utilization of our country's ideal location in the Red Sea coast of Africa, rich resources and growing business opportunities availed in the country. In this respect, it is the first wish of our delegation to bring this overriding need - on this TICAD VI Ministerial Follow-up Meeting for the Government and the private sector of Japan - to take full account of these ideal circumstances - in order to garner the needed political will, attention, transfer of technology and resources through the TICAD process

Prime Minister Abe has indicated in the statement delivered in the TICAD V to use aid as it see fit. Eritrea has responded to this by putting on the table its priorities of cooperation. It has shared with Japan in subsequent high level economic policy consultation meetings held in Tokyo and Asmara all possible priorities of cooperation envisaged in the TICAD process such as in education, agriculture, fisheries, energy, capacity building in medical and health care, other projects aimed at post conflict infrastructure improvements - including but not excluding the participation of overseas enterprises of Japan in such efforts.

In the past years, Eritrea has also brought into the attention of the Government of Japan its special needs regarding adaptation to climate change, post conflict rehabilitation and a continued obligation to maintain sustainable and inclusive growth. Eritrea is currently keenly committed also in the follow-up and implementation of the Nairobi Declaration, among which universal health coverage through resilient health systems was stated as a TICAD priority area of cooperation under pillar 2. Our delegations applaud Japan's contribution to the building and improvement of resilience to our health sector. We also applaud the

role of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance in its significant contribution to more equitable and affordable access to vaccines to save children's lives. Undoubtedly, current efforts to develop malaria vaccine are not only welcome news but also a great step in the right direction to reduce the mortality rate in Africa.

Therefore, first and foremost it is appropriate to express in this important meeting of today that Eritrea expects to be among the beneficiary states of Africa from the USD30 billion pledges made by Japan at the 2016 TICAD VI Nairobi Summit.

Eritrea is ready to work in partnership and hand-in-hand with Japan supported through the available bilateral/multilateral conduits of cooperation of the TICAD process.

I thank you!