

**Remarks Made by H. E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) On a Working Tea Meeting of the African Diplomatic Corps with H.E. Mr. Rakotoarimanana Hery Martial Rajaonarimampianina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, December 5, 2017.**

Your Excellency H.E. Mr. Rakotoarimanana Hery Martial Rajaonarimampianina,  
President of the Republic of Madagascar,

First lady, Mrs. Voahangy Rajaonarimampianina,

Honorable members of the delegation, and

Excellences and Dear Colleagues

Good afternoon,

My name is ESTIFANOS Afeworki. I am the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC).

Mr. President,

Allow me first and foremost to welcome Your Excellency to Japan and honorable members of your delegation. I also would like to express, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps present with us here this afternoon and myself, our good wish and success to Your Excellency's four-day official visit to Japan from December 3 to December 6, 2017.

Thank you so much for making time to meet our African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in spite of Your Excellency's tight official visit schedules. We are 38 African Missions here in Tokyo. As Your Excellency know, the group has been engaged in the Tokyo International Cooperation for African Development (TICAD) process since its inception in 1993 - in a collective diplomacy to promote the strategic interest of Africa to Japan.

Mr. President,

This Group has been in a continues engagements with all the stakeholders of TICAD i.e. Japan, African Union (AU), the World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (UNOSAA) to help in structuring and influencing the outcomes of the process to address strategies for steps toward greater African prosperity in general, and especially after TICAD VI in Nairobi, to support industrialization, health and social stability programs of African countries in a more focused manner in particular. We have also worked hand-in-hand with New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and African Development Bank (AfDB) to create a bridge between the businesses of African countries and Japanese public and private sector. We are wholeheartedly working here together, with

politicians, government bureaucrats, academia, businesses leaders, media, tour operators, NGOs, NPOs etc not only as brothers and sisters with common destiny but as one team and unit in order to promote the strategic importance and interest of Africa to Japan and beyond. Ms. Rosette Rasoamanarivo Chargé d'affaires a.i. and all the diplomats of the Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar had been in the forefront of these efforts. Let me take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for their continued contribution to the TICAD process at this moment. Your Excellency's continued support and contribution in TICAD and to our collective diplomacy in promoting the strategic interest of Africa to Japan here in Tokyo has also been paramount. Thank you so much.

Without much ado, I would also like to invite Mr. President to say a few words. But before that, I would also like to open the floor for Excellences and Dear Colleagues introduction one-by-one and if possible to share a few words with Your Excellency on our activities here in Tokyo given the opportune time.

Thank you,