

**Remarks Made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps On Tokyo African Club (TAC) Meeting July 10, 2018.**

DG Taeshi Osuga  
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues  
Ladies and Gentlemen

In my capacity as the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps and the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, let me first and foremost express our deep sorrow and wish for fortitude to Japan and the bereaved families currently affected due to the heavy rains and floodings in west Japan.

Our group, the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) has been closely working with the co-organizers and all the stakeholders of the TICAD process in order to put the opportunities availed to Japan by Africa and African countries especially for Africa's long term development strategy (2050) get focused attention from the TICAD process. As our main obligation, we have been duty bound to put Africa long and short-term development strategy get necessary attention from the TICAD partnership process. The ADC believes it is in the interest of Japan and Africa to enhance and develop an institutionalized base to serve this strategy of Africa already adopted by TICAD VI Nairobi Summit of 2016. Cooperation between African countries and Japan on peace building, infrastructure, industries, governance, education, research and services is not only an imperative but also of mutual necessity in Today's Africa or IMA NO AFRICA now.

The TICAD process evolved into becoming a unique form of partnership program because it included ways and means of successfully monitoring and evaluating the implementation of its own summit pledges. The ADC believes, and is of the opinion, that this uniqueness must be continuously enhanced and improved. It is time that we sit together at a working level and hold information sharing meetings with all the stakeholders here in Tokyo on this important matter as soon as possible.

It is imperative that ADC and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA) work together more than any time now to serve the strategy of partnership of Japan and IMA NO Africa. It is important to put an institutionalized base in the TICAD process for the FDI, know how, and technology flow from/to Japan and Africa to happen now not tomorrow.

The ADC is ready to work with MoFA and other stakeholders of Japan especially the private sector in all fronts: i.e. to improve the TICAD process and look into ways and means of creating a concrete tie-up between our countries and Japan on 1) Science and Technology 2) Trade and Investment 3) Tourism, Culture and Media promotion 4) Public Diplomacy between Africa & Japan least but not least is the 5) Improvement of the Travel Advisory issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan concerning our countries.

The ADC has also shown always its readiness to harmonize and coordinate with all co-organizers of the TICAD process including and not excluding the African Union Commission. I would like to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan that ADC and AUC are looking forward holding a working meeting to harmonize Africa's position before the Joint Monitoring Group (JMC) Meeting of July 31, 2018 as well as for TICAC7.

On behalf of all colleagues present here and myself, let me thank DG OSUGA and TICAD Ambassador Araki for calling this important meeting once again, and without much ado, before I give the floor to Excellencies and Dear Colleagues who are chairing the different ADC committees for them also to make a snapshot remarks, if they have of course, so that we can go to further deliberations later.

Let me announce very important news to all peace loving people present here that Eritrea and Ethiopia Peace Summit has been successfully held in Asmara last Sunday and yesterday. Both sides have agreed to explore ways and means in joining efforts to maintain stability and ensure prosperity in the region. This agreement of peace is a significant historic move that will engulf the continent of Africa. The era of conflict in the Horn of Africa has been closed and a new era of peace and cooperation was born yesterday. I call upon all peace loving people, Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, present here to be on the side of this heroic history and never against - be it overt or covert again. The passage of time always brings changes and it is necessary at this juncture to become aware of the responsibilities this new chapter of peace entails to the TICAD process and regional peace.

Thank you so much and let me give now the floor to Excellencies and Dear Colleagues:

H.E. Dr. Pierre NDZENGUE, Ambassador  
Republic of Cameroon (Chair of TICAD Committee of ADC)

H.E. Mrs. Ndiyoi Muliwana MUTITI, Ambassador  
Republic of Zambia (Chair of Trade and Investment Committee of ADC)

H.E. Mr. Solomon. K. MAINA, Ambassador  
Republic of Kenya (Chair of Media, Culture and Tourism Committee of ADC)

H.E. Mr. Mohamed El Amine BENCHERIF, Ambassador  
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (Chair of Science and Technology Committee of ADC)

H.E. Mr. Mr. Silence DLOMO, Ambassador  
Republic of South Africa (Chair of Africa Day Committee of ADC)

H.E. Mrs. Mrs. Aya THIAM DIALLO, Ambassador  
Republic of Mali (Treasurer of ADC)