

**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 the Closing Session of the Japan Africa Business Forum July 26, 2017 Tokyo:**

Honorable ministers

Distinguished participants

Senior officials of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

Colleagues from the Diplomatic Corps

Ladies and gentlemen

In my capacity as a Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) and Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, please allow me first and foremost to extend my deep felt gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all the distinguished guests and participants who attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Japan Business Forum 2017.

On the onset, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the ADC's Trade and Investment Committee and External Representation Office for Asia African Development Bank (AfDB), Chairperson H.E. Mr. VAHEKENI Ambassador of the Republic of Angola and Head YOKOYAMA respectively, the moderators, distinguished keynote speakers, panelists, and all the participants who have contributed effectively and made this event to be a successful one.

My special thanks also goes to the government and business community of Japan, the ADC, AfDB Tokyo for the wonderful arrangements and preparation made for the success of this forum; for the vibrant vibration in the conference where everyone had been given the opportunity to convey constructive viewpoints representing the mutual business strategic needs, priorities, interests of Japan and African countries especially at this point of time of a historic moment.

I believe, this forum has been a great opportunity that has enhanced everyone's knowledge about business and tie-up opportunities in Africa and Japan.

I am not going to repeat any of the points covered in this important forum by all those wise men and women in the forum, but I would just like to take this opportunity to convey special thanks to JICA, JETRO and all the supporting organizations: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Keidanren, Keizai Doyukai, JOGMEC, JBIC, World Bank Group, Africa Society of Japan, UNIDO Office Tokyo, UNDP, World Bank Group, Africa Society of Japan, Association of African Economy and Development of Japan, Alliance Forum Foundation, Africa Business Promotion Support Network and , all those which I have failed to mention here, who have contributed to the successful conduct of this forum.

Last but not least I must especially thank all those ladies and gentlemen who have worked behind the scene for the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan – Africa Business Forum 2017 and wish every participant a bon voyage to their destinations...

The African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo and AfDB shall work hand-in-hand in their continued engagements to empower Africa and Japan with business opportunities...Thank you very much.