

Remarks Made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps On TICAD JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE and Related Meetings 31 July 2018.

All Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) members present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon,

I am honored to extend, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) – 38 missions in Tokyo – and myself as Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan – our warm welcome to all the members of JMC present here today.

It is the collective belief and sincere wish of the ADC that this important meeting held today will be conducted in the usual amicable and efficient manner to achieve its objective i.e. collective assessment of the state of implementation of the TICAD V and VI outcomes.

Let me take this opportunity to assure all the partners of the TICAD process present here that the ADC shall remain seized and will remain continuously engaged with all your esteemed institutions to facilitate the implementation of the TICAD outcomes in our countries and Africa - as well as to contribute to the overall qualitative and quantitative evolution of the TICAD process.

The African Diplomatic Corps has come up with an innovative idea and vehicle of promoting the strategic interest of our continent to Japan through a program that it launched in 2018 called **Today's Africa** or **IMA NO AFRICA** (Japanese language translation). ADC believes that this initiative can serve better the strategic partnership activities between Japan and Africa to be developed and enhanced. This initiative can also serve as means to put an institutional base to the long-term development strategy of African countries get a continued focused attention from the TICAD process - as well as from Japan's private and public sector.

Hence, I would like to request all participants of this important meeting especially the co-organizers of TICAD - to consider

supporting and sponsoring ADC's initiative of **Today's Africa** or **IMA NO Africa** program which will be held before TICAD7 in Yokohama in 2019.

Africa has come of age from the era of aid and donation since 1993. African countries offer ideal location, resources and huge business opportunities to Japan. It is imperative now for the TICAD process to evolve into an active strategic linkage of head, arm, and leg embedded process of energy and resources diplomacy between African countries and Japan before TICAD7. It is to the mutual interest of Africa and Japan.

Let's prepare together for these ideals to takeoff in TICAD7.

Thank you,