

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the Afternoon Tea Meeting between H.E. Professor Alpha Conde of the Republic of Guinea, Chairperson of African Union (AU) on June 20, 2017 Tokyo:

His Excellency Professor Alpha CONDE, President of the Republic of Guinea, and Chairperson of the Africa Union (AU),

Honorable members of the President's delegation,

His Excellency Mr. Senkoun SYLLA, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to Japan,

Colleagues of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC),

Ladies and gentlemen,

The African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) represented by 38 countries and myself as the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan in my capacity as a Dean would like to sincerely welcome your visit to Japan and extend our best wishes for its success. Your visit will definitely strengthen the already existing friendly relations between Japan and Guinea as well as Japan and Africa.

Hence, let me take this opportunity to congratulate our colleague, His Excellency Mr. Senkoun SYLLA, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to Japan, not only for the efforts and hard work that was put to make Mr. President's visit to Japan a successful one but also for His Excellency's continued relentless support and contribution to our collective diplomacy in promoting the strategic interest of Africa to Japan here in Tokyo.

Ambassador Sylla, thank you so much for making all the necessary arrangement for this important rendezvous of ADC with the President.

Therefore, with out much ado, let me now request, first, Colleagues of the African Diplomatic Corps to introduce themselves to the

President. After which, I would also like to kindly ask also the introduction of the President's Delegation by Ambassador SYLLA to follow.

Mr. President,

The floor is yours. It is a great honor to have Your Excellency this afternoon with us. If Your Excellency's time and tight schedule allows, I would like to open the floor for a brief comments and exchanges with Colleagues after the speech.

Thank you!