

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the Occasion of the Tokyo African Club (TAC) Meeting on June 7, 2016:

**Ambassador Norio Maruyama, Director-General, African Affairs
Department MoFA**

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen present

Let me first express on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) our heartfelt gratitude to Ambassador Norio Maruyama for his continued support and high consideration provided to the collective diplomacy of our group to promote our mutual interest, policy attitudes and agendas of Africa and Japan. We really appreciate your initiative and invitation to the Tokyo African Club (TAC) meeting of today, called to exchange ideas, opinions, on the draft outcome documents and logistical issues, prior to the coming TICAD VI Ministerial Meeting in Banjul, the Islamic Republic of the Gambia on June 16 to 17, 2016.

As we all remember the ADC proposal for TICAD VI and towards the improvement of TICAD process has already been submitted to all the co-organizers as a collective contribution of our group effort from Tokyo in 2015. We are aware and confident that recommendations made by the Group have been taken on board on the undergoing preparation for TICAD VI.

As the Ambassador know, all heads of missions of the ADC hold a continued regular monthly meeting on TICAD related issues in Tokyo. We have remained ceased in our joint efforts as a group - especially through our recent meetings for our continued, remaining and expected important contribution - in particular - the anticipated successful and improved qualitative outcome of TICAD VI in Nairobi, Kenya from 27th to 28th August 2016 i.e. The Draft Nairobi Declaration. We expect to submit our final input soon, in view of what is presented to us today. Subsequently the TICAD Chair is going to hold an open-ended follow-up meeting tomorrow - to reflect our constructive input to this process. We expect to submit this draft outcome to Your Excellency's attention and the co-organizers - before the Banjul meeting and ASAP.

As Your Excellency also know, ADC is also continuously engaged and coordinating with H.E. Mr. Solomon K. Maina Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya in Tokyo and H.E. Mr. Benson Ogutu Kenya's Special Envoy for TICAD & DG of TICAD VI Secretariat in the promotion and mobilization of the side-event to be held in Nairobi from 27th to 28th August 2016.

ADC's continued engagement with specialized public and private agencies, business community, politicians, academia, students, media and the public of Japan, which included and doesn't exclude NGOs and NPOs, are giving positive outcome too. We expect a good turn out from all in Nairobi.

Let me assure in this meeting that the ADC is ready to work hand in hand with Your Excellency until the successful first TICAD in Africa where the Agenda of partnerships between Africa and Japan shall be reflected and underlined clearly by our heads of states in Nairobi next August.

Arigato