

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Estifanos Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the Online Meeting of ADC TICAD Committee and JICA Meeting Tokyo June 15, 2021

H.E. Mr. ELLOUMI, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, Chair of TICAD Committee

Mr. YAMADA, Senior Executive Vice President of JICA

Mr. NAKAMURA, Senior Vice President of JICA

Ms. MASUDA, DG Africa Department of JICA

Mr. MATSUNAGA, DG, Middle East and Europe Department of JICA

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

Mina San Konnichiwa,

The African Diplomatic Corps is deeply saddened and bereaved by the untimely death of H.E. Mr. Félix NGOMA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Congo to Japan. He was a fine and effective representative of his great people and country, he will be sadly missed by his many friends, excellencies and colleagues of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Japan for his humble character and contribution to the African cause. May he rest in peace now.

First and foremost, allow me to express my appreciation and support, in my capacity as the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of the State of Eritrea, to the good work being undertaken by the African Diplomatic Corps' TICAD Committee and its chair H.E. Mr. Mohamed ELLOUMI, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia in the preparations for TICAD 8, which will be held in Tunis in 2022, as well as the follow up meetings of TICAD 7 Yokohama 2019, for the Annual Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings expected to be held in Japan, on August 2021.

Let me also add my voice to what Ambassador ELLOUMI just said and express also my confidence that this mutual dialogue that will be undertaken in this meeting of today between ADC and JICA will further contribute to the continued improvement process in the follow-up mechanism and inputs of the various outcomes which were targeted and set by the previous TICAD Declaration and Action Plan.

It is obvious to see for everyone COVID – 19 pandemic adverse effects on the socio-economic development of the world in general and African countries in particular. Resilience has become the order of the day in every corner of the world and everywhere. Therefore, I believe it is important at this juncture to recognize the multi-dimensional side effects of COVID-19 pandemic and look for ways and means on how those challenges that are being faced can be interfaced with the TICAD process too.

In view of the fast-changing background that has been imposed by COVID-19 pandemic it is appropriate and timely for all the stakeholders of TICAD to look into the past declarations and adjust with the prevailing situations, and if possible, come up with innovative improved ideas, needs and requirements, as well as implementation strategies, modalities and roadmaps.

I wish all the participants of today's meeting a constructive and successful deliberation,

Thank you,