

**Statement made by H.E. Mr. OSMAN Saleh Mohamed, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the State of Eritrea at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference
On African Development (TICAD VI) Summit
Nairobi, Kenya 27th-28th August 2016**

H.E. Mr. Uhuru KENYATTA, President of the Republic of Kenya
H.E. Mr. Mr. Idris DÉBY, President of the Republic of Chad
H.E. Mr. Shinzo ABE, Prime Minister of Japan

(All protocol observed)

Since 1993, Eritrea has benefited through The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) cooperation, which targeted our education, health, infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries development programs. Hence, I would like, first and foremost, to express, ceasing this opportunity, our gratitude and thanks to Japan for its generous contributions to the self-effort of our daunting tasks and challenges of nation building in the last 23 years.

Secondly, terrorism, war, conflicts military tensions between the major powers, unprecedented since the end of the cold war period, are on the rise day-by-day threatening global peace and stability in general and our region Africa in particular. The global stability is not at all in a “business as usual” situation. Financial crisis, energy and climate change crisis, regional upheavals, conflicts, new health threats like Ebola and their spill over effects are increasing with an alarming rate and density. Humanitarian situation, displacement of populations has deteriorated to an unprecedented level never seen since World War II. Global security and stability is getting complicated day-by-day.

Is the UN providing critical ability to provide service essential to confront these challenges? Is the African Union peace and security architecture constructively engaged with the UN to confront these challenges? Does Japan and Africa see eye-to-eye and exchange candid ideas and opinions on these important issues?

No matter how we answer these questions at this moment of the history of mankind, it is essential and urgent that Japan and Africa show their commitment to international rule of law, reaffirm their duty and obligations, and shake hands by showing their mutual goodwill to tackle their historical, rightful and legitimate role in the United Nations. Eritrea believes that Africa and Japan must remain actively and candidly engaged on the timely issue of the UN reform. It is more important than any time now to define afresh our mutual path forward. TICAD VI offers this opportunity between Japan and African countries.

Thirdly, TICAD VI Summit, which is being held in Nairobi Kenya in 2016, represents a new approach, i.e. a quantitative and qualitative change, to the policy and implementation of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) of Japan to our continent and our countries, implemented through the TICAD process since 1993.

As we all know, our continent has currently entered into an era of investment as opposed to traditional aid. It is with this backdrop of the TICAD maturity that Eritrea welcomes, once again, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan into the mutual development and utilization of our rich natural and human resources.

Eritrea realizes the importance of this qualitative change and the contributions it can make in the imperatives of peace, stability, prosperity, cooperation and integration of our region. Hence, Eritrea assures its continued readiness to work together with all the co-organizers, public and private sector of Japan, towards the mutual success of these partnership programs.

Thank you Kenya for your warm welcome and hospitality.