

## **Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Estifanos Afeworki Haile Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the Virtual Meeting of TICAD Joint Monitoring Group on July 15, 2021**

Government of Japan  
African Diplomatic Corps in Japan  
International Organizations  
Partner countries  
Representatives of the Private Sector  
Representatives of Civil Society

(All protocol observed)

Good afternoon

Allow me to welcome all of you, the participants of the Joint Monitoring Group Meeting which is being held virtually prior to the planned TICAD8 in Tunis 2022.

It is an honor for me to inform the participants that in the current meeting of the Joint Monitoring Group that will convene officially tomorrow, the African Diplomatic Corps in Japan shall participate in those important deliberations represented by our colleague H.E. Mr. Mohamed ELLOUMI, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia in his capacity as Chair of TICAD Committee in our group.

The African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo has participated in the TICAD process and its continued improvements through constructive diplomacy and contribution since its inception in 1993. The group has witnessed the coming of age of the Japan African cooperation and tie-up process from human centric development cooperation into a mechanism which allowed the Japanese business community mobilization of investments into the African countries. The strategic partnerships which have been envisaged between our African countries and Japan is definitely in the horizon now. But it needs no reminder to mention in this opening, that a lot remains to be achieved yet.

Currently, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), technology and know how of Japan is expected to be a significant player in our African countries. Obviously, a boasted commitment and financing of TICAD7 implementation plan approved in Yokohama

is the way forward now. We hope that all the co-organizers of TICAD will make every effort to ensure, in this important meeting, that the commitments already made in Yokohama and Nairobi have been achieved.

In view of the priorities that unfolded due to COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to the security and health it imposed on our peoples, the cooperation in the area of health capacity building which was stressed in TICAD7Yokohama2019 is expected to be given a major priority given the local realities that are existing in each of our countries in Africa.

Last but not least, let me take this opportunity in my capacity as Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo and the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan to express our deep appreciation to the support provided to our joint diplomacy by the Co-organizers of the TICAD process: namely The Government of Japan, the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations, the World Bank, United Nations, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Thank you for your cooperation once again,