

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Estifanos Afeworki Haile Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in the GGG + Forum 2023 organized by RESULTS Japan 28 November 2023

Honorable Guests,
Excellencies and Dear Collogues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me take this opportunity to express on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps members present and myself, our thanks and gratitude for the invitation extended to us to participate in the GGG + Forum 2023 organized by RESULTS Japan.

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) means to the 55 African Union member states a foreign policy mechanism offered by Japan, initiated after the end of the Cold War era in 1993, to build a bridge of understanding for the enhancement of trade and commerce between African countries and Japan in particular and African countries and the world in general.

TICAD process has provided, the Africans and diplomats residing here in Japan representing our sovereign and independent states, with a great opportunity to work towards building mutual trust and friendship for building world peace and regional stability. It is our great hope and wish that these activities has definitely contributed to the enhancement and strengthening of the bilateral relations between African countries and Japan in particular. I believe that it has provided more than anything else, an opportunity, for both sides to exchange continued mutual commitments to continue cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations, especially on the imminent need to reform United Nations, particularly UN Security Council, in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

TICAD means building a win-win future relations between the peoples of the world in general and Africans and Asians in particular because its policy declarations of the last thirty years are clearly pegged to a human centered development strategy. This means, of course, building people-to-people relationships as the main pillar in building partnerships of human wisdom – through continued programs of technological, cultural, economic, and knowledge-based exchange programs.

TICAD also opened an opportunity for both sides to discuss strategic win-win commitments to develop and reach mutual policy agreements and understanding on

Foreign Direct Investments, technology and know-how transfer for securing a stable supply of mineral and energy resources between African and Asian countries in general and African countries and Japan in particular. The continued need of this exchange is important more than any time now.

Africa Asia or Africa Japan relations is not a matter of choice but a matter of necessity because Africa and Asia are the final frontiers of human and natural resources in the modern world that we live in today.

The African Diplomatic Corps has been actively involved with the TICAD coorganizers in the continued improvements made to the TICAD process as well as in monitoring and evaluating the outcomes in the past.

In brief , the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo has been engaged in its collective diplomacy with state and non-state institutions, cogorganizers of TICAD, private sector and civil society organizations in support of a pragmatic approach for building genuine partnerships between Japan and African countries - by consciously avoiding rehistoric and politicization in its activities.

Hence it is the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo's high expectation that TICAD will present ground breaking strategic actions and milestones of buisness partnerships to be realized within a specific time frame (2022 - 2025). Africa has learned its lessons from the effects of proxy politics in the continent of Africa during the cold war period. TICAD is a light at the end of that dark tunnel.

The scramble for Africa is a past history. As the motto of this forum clearly outlined – the only and only road must be "Towards a Thoughtful World". Many African countries used to export food during the 60th. The average GDP per capita of African countries was higher than the Asian countries from 1960th to the mid 70th. Now many African countries are importing food; and GDP per capita of countries in Africa is far lower than in Asia in 2023.

Food security is the future in Africa! It is always a joy to see a continuous interaction of the soft power of Japan and African countries in action, all the best, and let me conclude by stating that making Joint Agreements on Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation between African countries and Japan is the only viable future for TICAD.

Thank you