

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Council for the Promotion of TICAD9 in Yokohama May 9, 2024**

Council Members for the Promotion of TICAD9 in Yokohama

Honorable guests present

All protocol observed

Good afternoon,

My name is Estifanos Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps. Thank you for the invitation and opportunity given to me to address this important promotion event held for TICAD9.

1993, after the end of the cold war, the Tokyo International Cooperation for African Development (TICAD) program was set to sail by Japan to arrive at a destination of a new world order, which includes but not exclude Africa and Japan. Subsequently, through the long odyssey of years, Japan's contribution in the development efforts of African countries which started to take shape in humanitarian activities has substantially changed into an economic win-win level of cooperation. Many major economic powers of the world also followed suit. The trajectory of a mutual positive policy dialogue, declarations, trade and investment growth between Africa and Japan in the last 30 years is a clear testimony of these trend.

It is history now that that we saw a remarkable change in the paradigm of cooperation in these years as a result of the TICAD engagements and similar other initiatives both globally and regionally taken-up with African countries individually and through African Union. But watching recent global peace and security events, which are currently unfolding with great speed Infront of our eyes, if anything has happened, it was the return of the past history of the cold war crisis with a great vengeance. The Heart of Africa, Sahel Region, Nile Basin of Africa, Red Sea, Middle East countries and beyond have turned into war fronts. Global peace and security are under threat. Humanitarian catastrophe is eminently visible. Cold War policies seem to have clearly blinded the UN Charter.

TICAD9 Africa – Japan Summit which is being planned to be held in Yokohama in August 2025 is expected to be held in a geo-political situation which is uniquely different, in its life span of 30 years, where regional peace and stability is clearly at steak. Hence, the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo believe that the international community, especially the co-organizers, should play a constructive and conscious role to abort further catastrophic global humunitarian crisis.

Last but not least, let me take this particular opportunity to express that the African Diplomatic Corps looks forward, as it did in the past, to work - hand-in-hand - with Yokohama City, towards a successful TICAD9.

Thank you again,