

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the reception on the occasion of the Ambassadorial Conference, 28 November 2024

President of the Africa Society of Japan (ASJ) Mr. Koichiro Matsuura

Honorable guests present

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

- MATSUURA Koichiro, Ambassador President of Africa Society of Japan
- HORIUCHI Toshihiko, Ambassador Director-General African Affairs Department, MOFA
- TANAKA Akihiko, President of JICA
- KUSAKA Sumio, Ambassador Managing Director of Africa Society of Japan

My name is Estifanos Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo.

Let me first and foremost express our deepfelt gratitude and thanks to the invitation extended to me and all the Heads of Missions of the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo present to meet in this reception with our counterpart Ambassadors of Japan currently serving as important mission in our African countries.

On this occasion, let me take the opportunity to express to all the Ambassadors of Japan currently serving in our African countries our profound appreciation and good wishes for their continued service and efforts to enhance and develop the friendly relationships.

As Ambassadors who are striving, on the ground, to enhance and develop African countries and Japan's interests for building mutual trust, peace, trade and investment, we are all aware that the prospects and challenges for Africa – Japan cooperation through TICAD process are many and multifaceted - especially in view of the long history of the

scramble for Africa which has been clearly getting more and more pronounced and complex, after the end of the Cold War, in the last 30 years.

In view of this profoundly sad phenomenon unfolding in front of all of us, relentless commitments and efforts towards a win-win partnership between Africa and Japan is a must not a choice. Taking this opportunity, my humble message to this meeting is:

I believe that Africa Japan continued constructive mutual efforts and contribution can determine the success and future of the Nineth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) that will be held in the City of YOKOHAMA next year (in 2025).

Thank you once again, and let me conclude by expressing our deep-felt gratitude for Your Excellencies' services and cooperation extended to our countries, and

Let me also wish you a pleasant and enjoyable stay in your home country with your families now.