

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) Meeting on June 5, 2017 Tokyo:

**Honorable participants
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me first express on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) and myself our heartfelt gratitude to all the co-organizers present for the continued support and high consideration provided to the collective diplomacy of our group to promote our mutual interest, policy attitudes and the common agenda of Africa and Japan in the Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) process.

We appreciate the invitation extended to the ADC by the Government of Japan and the African Union Commission (AUC) to participate in the TICAD Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting of today, which has been called to exchange ideas, opinions, on the preparation towards the coming TICAD VI Ministerial Follow up Meeting, in Maputo, Mozambique, from 23 to 25 August 2017 as well as the draft Progress Report of TICAD VI and related issues.

As we all remember the ADC proposal for TICAD VI and towards the improvement of the process has already been submitted to all the organizers as a collective contribution of our group effort from Tokyo in 2015 and 2016. We are aware and happy that recommendations made by the Group have been taken on board in the outcome documents of the TICAD VI Nairobi Declaration.

As you all know, all heads of missions of the ADC here in Tokyo hold a continued regular monthly meeting on TICAD related issues. We have remained ceased in our joint efforts as a group - especially through our meetings for the continued, anticipated successful and improved qualitative outcomes of the process. Currently, the ADC remains engaged and ready to coordinating with H.E. Mr. Jose Maria da Silva Vieira Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique in Tokyo to the successful outcome of the coming Ministerial Meeting in Maputo.

Let me also mention in this meeting that ADC's continued engagement with specialized public and private agencies, business community, politicians, academia, students, media and the public of Japan, which included and doesn't exclude NGOs and NPOs, are giving positive outcome to the evolution of the TICAD process too.

With this small introduction, let me assure all the participants of this important meeting that the ADC is ready to work hand-in-hand with all the co-organizers for the successful Agenda of partnerships between Africa and Japan to be reflected and effectively implemented in all our countries.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support once again,