

TICAD V Thematic Session 3:
Towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda
H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
9:00-12:00, 2nd June @ Pacifico Yokohama

Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,
My dear friends of Africa,

I am truly honored to have an opportunity to discuss the post-twenty five (2015) development agenda today, with the representatives from vibrant African nations and development partners. I would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon for his strong determination to achieve sustainable development, and to Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia for her leadership as one of the Co-Chairs of the Secretary General's High-Level Panel of the Eminent Persons on this topic.

Japan has been leading the international discussion on the next framework. We are proud to have been taking various initiatives. For example, Japan has been making substantive contributions through the informal Contact Group. Japan also raised the awareness of the international community by hosting related events on the occasions of the UN General Assembly and the Annual Meeting of the IMF and World Bank held in Tokyo last year.

It is notable that the first thematic consultation led by the UN was also hosted in Tokyo. Its theme, "Growth, Structural Change, and Employment," is of particular importance for us gathered here today. The theme is a key agenda for TICAD V. I understand that it is also emphasised in the African common position on the development agenda beyond 2015.

Highlighting growth as the driver of development, generating employment, particularly for women and youth, and striving to achieve resilient and high-quality sustainable growth will lead Africa to a brighter future. At the same time, it is crucial for everyone to be able to participate in such a growth process and to be given an equal opportunity. We need a new framework that pursues inclusive growth in a transformative manner.

Mr. Chair,

Building upon the strengths of the current Millennium Development Goals, the successor framework should be simple, clear, easy-to-understand, and measurable. In addition, it should address the unfinished jobs of the current MDGs in a strengthened and improved manner. Also, it should address emerging challenges.

For example, in order to meet diversified health needs, we must aim at ensuring universal access to basic healthcare services. While we need to continue our efforts to reduce the maternal mortality ratio, we need to tackle emerging challenges such as improving nutrition. To this end, the new framework should include the promotion of Universal Health Coverage, which is also positioned as a priority in Japan's Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy.

Disaster risk reduction is another issue that the current MDGs have not addressed sufficiently. In Africa, many people have been affected by floods and droughts. About 90% of the victims of natural disasters live in developing countries. It is an urgent task to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development activities. In twenty fifteen (2015), Japan will be hosting the Third World UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to further promote disaster risk reduction in the international community. At the same time, we would like to stress the importance of fully incorporating disaster risk reduction in the global development agenda beyond twenty fifteen (2015). In so doing, it is crucial to ensure the new framework addresses the issue of sustainability effectively.

Mr. Chair,

Human security plays an essential role as an overarching principle in addressing all the aforementioned issues. By focusing on every individual, we can give due consideration to the nexus among various threats. Also we can promote a comprehensive approach, and encourage collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders. Furthermore, by protecting and empowering individuals, and thereby achieving their proactive participation in community building, we can eradicate poverty and bring sustained prosperity for all.

Of course, even if good goals and targets are set, the promises will turn out to be nothing but pie in the sky, unless we ensure appropriate means of implementation to achieve them. Based on the ownership of developing countries and their own people, it is essential for all stakeholders to establish genuine global partnership by sharing responsibilities in accordance with their capabilities.

Collaboration between Japan and African countries is extremely important. I have high hopes that, through our discussion today, TICAD V can deliver a strong message regarding the post-twenty fifteen (2015) development agenda and deepen our cooperation in establishing an effective framework based on human security.

Thank you very much.

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